



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County  
Minutes of the Human Relations Committee**

**1:45 PM**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Boykin, Silvestri, Arroyo and Sims (4)

**Absent:** Fritchey, Steele and Suffredin (3)

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Chairman Boykin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code, Sec. 2-107 (dd).

1. Mr George Blakemore, concerned citizen
2. Michelle Garcia, Access Living
3. Rachel Murphy, ACLU of Illinois
4. Fre Tsao, Illinois coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
5. Irene Lehren Sandalow, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs

**16-2621**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 12/15/2015

**A motion was made by Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Arroyo, to approve 16-2621. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Boykin, Silvestri, Arroyo and Sims (4)

**Absent:** Fritchey, Steele and Suffredin (3)

**17-0724**

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), JESÚS G. GARCÍA, LUIS ARROYO JR, BRIDGET GAINER, STANLEY MOORE, JOHN A. FRITCHEY and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook

County Board Of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
COOK COUNTY UNITY**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is home to over one million immigrants from all over the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County has benefitted culturally, socially and economically from the diversity of its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the national political climate has produced fear and anxiety among many Cook County residents, particularly among people of color, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, and members of the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, health care providers and mental health experts have reported that frequently marginalized youth, LGBTQ and gender non-conforming youth, refugee/immigrant children and youth are experiencing significant distress as a result of the national discourse; and

**WHEREAS**, calls to mental health hot lines increased 200% in Illinois post-election with immigrants reporting anxiety and hopelessness due to fears of deportation for themselves or members of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, racism, xenophobia, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and all other forms of hate have no place in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, resolution 07-R-240 declared Cook County a Fair and Equal County for Immigrants ensuring equal access to essential benefits and opportunities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we reaffirm our commitment to being a Fair and Equal County for all immigrants, refugees, and their families; and will energetically oppose any efforts that conflict with those values or reverse critical protections to immigrants, refugees, and their families; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will continue to honor and protect the rights of all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, age, immigration status, criminal record, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will never waver on our commitment to ensuring women's rights in healthcare, in the workplace, in the home, and in the streets; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we remain deeply committed to religious freedom, and oppose any discriminatory treatment or persecution on the basis of faith; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we honor the rights of all individuals within the LGBTQ community to live without fear of discrimination or harassment; and we will support all of the progress we have made as a society in advancing LGBTQ rights; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we will continue our commitment to address the over-incarceration of Black and Brown communities and reducing the number of individuals in the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and immigrant detention systems, while reinvesting the resulting savings to address acute education, healthcare, employment, housing, minority-owned small business development and environmental needs in the communities most affected; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will continue to stand up for the needs of Cook County's low-income and working families, and will oppose efforts that jeopardize the well-being of these families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we are committed to addressing the effects of environmental degradation and climate change, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will oppose any efforts that compromise the safety or well-being of Cook County residents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call on all Cook County residents to stand united in defense of our common values and each other's civil and human rights so that we can protect and expand upon that which makes this County great.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo seconded by Vice Chair Sims, to accept as substituted 17-0724. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Boykin, Silvestri, Arroyo and Sims (4)

**Absent:** Fritchey, Steele and Suffredin (3)

**17-0724**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION-Substituted**

**COOK COUNTY UNITY**

**WHEREAS**, the diversity of our population represents perhaps our greatest asset as a County; and

**WHEREAS**, racism, xenophobia, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, disability discrimination, and all other forms of hate have no place in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, the national political climate has produced fear and anxiety among many Cook County residents, particularly among people of color, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, and members of the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, in the ten days following the November 8, 2016 election, there were 867 documented incidents of hate-based violence and harassment, principally directed at people of color, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, and members of the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, calls to mental health hot lines increased by 200% in Illinois post-election; and

**WHEREAS**, health care providers and mental health experts have reported that youth of color, refugee and immigrant youth, and LGBTQ and gender non-conforming youth are experiencing significant distress as a result of the national discourse; and

**WHEREAS**, resolution 07-R-240 declared Cook County a Fair and Equal County for Immigrants ensuring equal access to essential benefits and opportunities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we will continue to honor and protect the rights of all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, age, immigration status, criminal record, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we reaffirm our commitment to being a Fair and Equal County for all immigrants, refugees, and their families; and will oppose any efforts that conflict with those values or reverse critical protections to immigrants, refugees, and their families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will never waver on our commitment to ensuring women's rights in healthcare, in the workplace, in the home, and in the streets; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we remain deeply committed to religious freedom, and oppose any discriminatory treatment or persecution on the basis of faith; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we honor the rights of all individuals within the LGBTQ community to live without fear of discrimination or harassment; and we will support all of the progress we have made as a society in advancing LGBTQ rights; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we will continue our commitment to address the over-incarceration of Black and Brown communities and reducing the number of individuals in the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and immigrant detention systems, while reinvesting the resulting savings to address acute education, healthcare, employment, housing, minority-owned small business development and environmental needs in the most affected communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we will continue to promote law enforcement practices focused on collaborating with communities to improve public safety without violating residents' civil and human rights; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will continue to stand up for the needs of Cook County's low-income and working families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we are committed to addressing the effects of environmental degradation and climate change, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will oppose any efforts that compromise the safety or well-being of Cook County residents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call on all Cook County residents to stand united in defense of

our common values and each other's civil and human rights so that we can protect and expand upon that which makes this County great.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo seconded by Vice Chair Sims, to approve substitute # 17-0724. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Boykin, Silvestri, Arroyo and Sims (4)

**Absent:** Fritchey, Steele and Suffredin (3)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Arroyo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Boykin, Silvestri, Arroyo and Sims (4)

**Absent:** Fritchey, Steele and Suffredin (3)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.