



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Human Relations Committee**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

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**

Authorization as a virtual public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, email address, phone number, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized virtual public speakers shall be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W.Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room F, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

**22-3252**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 04/06/2022

[22-2788](#)

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A HEARING IN THE COOK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS VIOLENCE AND SYSTEMIC BARRIERS AGAINST COOK COUNTY TRANSGENDER RESIDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, transgender residents in Cook County are vital members of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, transgender residents and trans-led organizations in Cook County contribute in numerous ways to enrich the quality of life in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, transgender people in our lives should be embraced and celebrated for the wonderful people they are and talents they bring to our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, these residents face systemic barriers and epidemic levels of violence leading to lack of access, for some, of basic needs and in the most extreme cases, leading to death; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last year, more transgender people have been murdered in Chicago than any other U.S. city; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2022 alone, two Black, trans women, Tatiana LaBelle and Elisa Malary, were found dead within 24 hours of each other days after being reported missing with LaBelle found beaten to death and put in a garbage bin in East Chatham and Elise Malary pulled out of Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2022, Kathryn Newhouse, a 19 year old transgender woman formerly a resident of Illinois, was shot and killed by her father; and

**WHEREAS**, according the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, at least 57 transgender or gender non-conforming people were fatally shot or killed by other violent means in 2021. The majority of the deaths were Black and Latinx people with the greatest numbers being Black, Trans women; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Medical Association has publicly described the level of violence against the transgender community as epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, most medical experts, law enforcement officials, and community members have stated that data should assume to be incomplete given the misgendering of transgender people; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Transgender Equality cites that one in five transgender people in the United States has been discriminated when seeking a home, and more than one in ten have been

evicted from their homes, because of their gender identity. One in five transgender individuals have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Lambda Legal, nearly one in six transgender Americans-and one in two black transgender people-has been to prison. Many of those individuals face discrimination by administrators and threats of sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, countless other barriers exist in the daily lives of transgender individuals including with Cook County government; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County stands with transgender residents and there is still more work to do to provide gender-affirming services to transgender residents; and

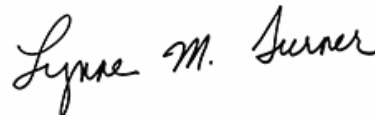
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners request a convening of the Cook County Human Relations Committee to conduct a hearing regarding current protocols and future plans in serving the transgender community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the following Cook County offices appear at the hearing to report to the Board regarding this topic:

- Cook County Health
- Cook County Medical Examiners' Office
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County Department of Human Resources
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council
- Cook County Department of Human Rights and Ethics

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the reports, updates, and strategies will detail the separately elected officials, or County department's, offices', and/or bureaus individual and collaborative efforts to address this important and serious issue.

**Legislative History :** 4/7/22 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Human Relations Committee



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Secretary

Chairman: Deer

Vice-Chairman: K. Morrison

Members: Anaya, Johnson, Miller, Sims and Suffredin