

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:20:05 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:28:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:07
IP Address: 144.74.136.29

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Paris Thomas, PhD
Organization (if any): Equal Hope
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60607

Q2

Cook County Board Meeting - 1/25/2024 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Item #24-1078

Q4

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Dear Cook County Commissioners and Commissioner Miller,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the recognition of January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in Cook County and the honoring of Equal Hope.

The acknowledgment of our work is deeply appreciated, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to raise awareness about this crucial health issue. Cervical cancer continues to be a significant public health concern in Cook County. According to the latest statistics, Cook County has seen an alarming rate of new cervical cancer cases, placing it among the areas with the highest incidence in the nation. Furthermore, the mortality rate from cervical cancer remains disproportionately high among underserved communities in the county. Equal Hope's work in raising awareness about cervical cancer plays a vital role in addressing this preventable disease. Through our initiatives, we aim to educate and empower individuals, especially those from marginalized communities, about the importance of regular screenings, early detection, and access to quality healthcare services. By providing crucial support and advocacy, we strive to bridge the gap in cervical cancer care, ultimately working towards reducing the incidence and mortality rates in Cook County. The recognition of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and Equal Hope's efforts underscores the urgency of addressing the disparities in cervical cancer outcomes. We are committed to amplifying our impact and advancing our mission to ensure that all individuals in Cook County have equal access to resources and information that can help prevent and detect cervical cancer at its earliest stages.

Once again, thank you for acknowledging the importance of this cause and recognizing the work of Equal Hope. We look forward to further collaboration in promoting cervical cancer awareness and fostering better health outcomes for our community.

Sincerely, Dr. Paris Thomas

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:07:04 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:14:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:17
IP Address: 50.200.227.126

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Ric King
Organization (if any): Schaumburg Community Consolidated School District
54
City/Town: SCHAUMBURG
State: IL
ZIP: 60194-3510

Q2

Cook County Board Meeting - 1/25/2024 10a

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24-1181

Q4

REGISTER IN OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

As Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations of Community Consolidated School District 54, it is our understanding that at a meeting as early as January 25, 2024, the Cook County Board of Commissioners will be considering, and may act on, changes to Cook County's recently adopted Paid Leave Ordinance. Our District requests that the Commissioners amend the Ordinance to exclude public school districts and their related educational cooperatives from coverage. In summary, the reasons for this request are:

1. The Ordinance was crafted to closely track the provisions of the new Illinois Paid Leave For All Workers Act. However, the state law expressly excludes public school districts from its requirements in recognition of the unique needs of school districts and the fact that the General Assembly has already provided for paid leave for school district employees through the sick leave provisions of the School Code. By omitting the exclusion for public school districts, the current Ordinance creates significant uncertainty regarding whether it applies to public school employees.
2. We do not believe that the County has authority to impose this regulation on school districts under Illinois law. The Ordinance as applied to public school districts is outside the scope of the County's government and affairs and excessively interferes with the state-wide system of public schools established by state law. The Ordinance is inconsistent with a number of Illinois Supreme Court decisions interpreting the extent of home rule authority under Article VII, Section 6 of the Illinois Constitution, especially the State's new leave legislation which exempts school districts.
3. The General Assembly exempted public school districts from compliance with the Paid Leave For All Workers Act because of the substantial adverse financial, staffing and operational impact that law would have, and because the General Assembly has already balanced the interests of workers and school districts through the sick leave provisions of the Illinois School Code. Attempting to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance will pose serious operational challenges for school districts and will negatively affect districts' ability to educate their students.
4. The confusion and operational challenges created by the Ordinance are further compounded by its inconsistent application even within districts. Many Cook County municipalities are opting out of the Ordinance under Section VII, Article 6(c) of the Illinois Constitution, which provides that the municipal home rule ordinance controls in the event of conflict with a county's home rule ordinance. Further, some school districts operate schools in multiple counties.
5. The Ordinance creates wholly unnecessary financial, staffing and operational disadvantage and inequity for Cook County school districts in comparison school districts elsewhere in the state, which are exempt from the comparable State leave legislation. While school districts recognize the need for paid leave for employees, we have developed leave policies, often in collaboration with our collective bargaining units, that balance that need with the need to provide for the education and safety of our students, all of which is particularly difficult now with the staffing shortages districts face.

For these reasons, the District strongly encourages the Board of Commissioners to exempt school districts from the Ordinance and thereby avoid the adverse financial, staffing and operational impact, the inconsistencies, the inequities and the legal disputes which will otherwise inevitably result.

Sincerely,

Andrew DuRoss
Superintendent
Schaumburg C.C.S.D. 54

Ric King
Assistant Superintendent Business Operations
Schaumburg C.C.S.D. 54

Q6 **Submitting written testimony only**

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address	ricking@sd54.org
Phone Number	8473575039

Q8 **No**

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 **Respondent skipped this question**

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:24:35 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:27:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:33
IP Address: 198.17.111.145

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Chris Leiner
Organization (if any):	Northbrook Park District
City/Town:	Northbrook
State:	IL
ZIP:	60062

Q2

Cook County Board Meeting - 1/25/2024 10a

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Q3

Respondent skipped this question

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Q4

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

My name is Chris Leiner and I'm the Executive Director of the Northbrook Park District, a unit of local government within Cook County.

I'd like to comment on the fact that Park Districts have been exempted by the Paid Leave for All Workers Act by the State of Illinois – Act 820 ILCS 192.

Cook County Park Districts are being told that we may be impacted by the County's Ordinance 23-553 through the removal of the State's exemption.

I understand that you are exploring a possible amendment to the Ordinance that would exempt park districts.

Following those conversations, our team has prepared an estimate of the financial impacts of this unfunded mandate to the Northbrook Park District. If imposed on our District, the cost for our Part-Time and Seasonal employees may exceed \$540,000 in 2024.

As I am sure you are aware, any financial impact is additionally burdensome to Park Districts as we must comply with PTEL and do not have the ability to raise these funds through other non-property tax mechanisms. We just set our 2023 Tax Levy in December and this financial impact would substantially affect the anticipated available funds that would come in from our 2023 tax increase. Even though CPI was 6.5% for 2022, the Park District was only able to levy at 5% for a total of an additional \$665,252. The estimated costs to comply with this Ordinance could be up to 81% of the levy, taking funds away from valuable and essential recreational opportunities for our community.

One of our only possibilities to attempt to cover this expense is to pass costs on to our participants in the form of significant fee increases or to severely limit staffing in our programs and facilities. Programs that could be impacted are day camp, after-school programming, swim lessons and outdoor aquatic facility operations including hours, days and weeks available for public use. It would also mean fewer people employed in roles that provide important first employment opportunities for young adults.

The Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance will impact my Park District and all Cook County Park Districts in a number of ways, including our ability to ensure the public's safety. Like many Villages that have already opted out of this ordinance due to public safety issues, Park Districts must protect our patrons, yet we have no way to opt out. Please consider that Park Districts must have the proper ratios of trained lifeguards for our aquatic areas and properly trained staff for our childcare centers and after school care programs. We need maintenance staff to conduct snow removal and ice control, remove trash and clean facilities for health reasons. The ordinance will encourage staff, especially our teenage staff upon which we rely heavily, to take leave causing us to potentially close facilities, reduce hours or levels of service or not offer programs.

Please consider amending the ordinance to exclude Park Districts as our State Legislators did.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

Respondent skipped this question

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Q8 Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:55:17 PM
Time Spent: 02:31:21
IP Address: 50.232.23.129

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Craig Talsma
Organization (if any):	Hoffman Estates Park District
City/Town:	Hoffman Estates
State:	IL
ZIP:	60169

Q2

Cook County Board Meeting - 1/25/2024 10a

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Q3

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24-0583

Q4

REGISTER IN OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Dear Cook County Commissioners:

As Executive Director of the Hoffman Estates Park District representing my elected park board commissioners, it is our understanding that at a meeting as early as January 25, 2024, the Cook County Board of Commissioners will be considering, and may act on, changes to Cook County's recently adopted Paid Leave Ordinance. Our District requests that the Cook County Commissioners amend the Ordinance to exclude park districts from coverage. In summary, the reasons for this request are:

This ordinance creates yet another unfunded mandate upon our special district. The short time frame of adoption, happening after we have approved both our tentative budget and appropriation ordinance, and tax levy allows no time to properly budget for these changes.

The requirement of paid time off for all workers, though exemplary in its concept, does not fit well for park districts that employ the greatest majority of our part-time staff during the summer.

Many of these employees are high school and college teenagers often working their first job to gain experience for their future carriers. As part-time employees they are not the major household income provider, and we allow tremendous flexibility for time off per their requests.

The majority of these seasonal staff will quite simply accrue the time and then receive extra pay when they leave, nullifying the intent of your ordinance. The state of Illinois understood the special circumstances that park district and school districts have and very carefully excluded us from their state statute. For Cook County to now include us does not comply with the state statute.

It clearly states in the Illinois statute (820 ILCS 192/) Paid Leave for All Workers Act.:

Any local ordinance that provides paid leave, including paid sick leave or paid leave, enacted or amended after the effective date of this Act must comply with the requirements of this Act or provide benefits, rights, and remedies that are greater than or equal to the benefits, rights, and remedies afforded under this Act.

Your ordinance does not comply with the Act, as it now includes park and school districts previously exempt. Adding more covered employees is not providing greater benefits, it is changing the intent of the statute.

Furthermore, when you amended your Paid Sick Leave Ordinance to create this new ordinance, the exemption for local governments was just dropped from the language of your very own Paid Sick Leave Ordinance. It was not stricken through as a red line adaptation would provide for. Was this an oversight and should it still be in there? Otherwise, you have created an ordinance that quite simply goes directly after local park and school district s as the state statute covers everyone else in the state.

The added expense this will create for our park district can mount to hundreds of thousands of dollars which we will then need to offset with user fees in areas like outdoor pools, swim lessons, preschool, and childcare, and the added cost falls mainly from individuals that do not even work year-round.

We would ask you to reconsider your position and the language of this ordinance and to provide an amendment that complies with the Illinois statute that exempts park and school districts.

Sincerely,

Craig Talsma, CPA, CPRE

Executive Director

Hoffman Estates Park District

Hoffman Estates, Cook County, IL

Q6

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Q7

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Email Address

CTALSMA@HEPARKS.ORG

Phone Number

8473103607

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:49:55 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:52:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:44
IP Address: 70.89.217.193

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Benjamin M. Rea
Organization (if any): Palatine Park District
City/Town: Palatine
State: IL
ZIP: 60067

Q2

Cook County Board Meeting - 1/25/2024 10a

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24-1181

Q4

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Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

The proposed Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance will have a lasting impact on Palatine Park District's ability to provide services to their residents. The base cost of paid leave alone is estimated to be approximately \$225, 400 for part-time employee staffing levels. This does not take into consideration the potential need to hire additional staff to cover the time taken by staff utilizing the proposed paid leave. It also does not take into account the existing staff working overtime to cover those vacancies as well. That cost is estimated to be as high as \$340,000.

The administrative costs related to implementing and tracking the program, as well as the fiscal liability to a Park District agency as the time accumulates (with possibly under-utilized time) and is owed upon separation of employment.

The proposed ordinance also has a negative impact upon the programs and services that our special recreation provider Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) provides. As an extension of their member agencies, they will have to abide by the proposed ordinance as well. Those additional expenses will need to be pulled from the special recreation funds needed to support their programs. This means that the Park District and NWSRA will need to consider raising program fees to offset the potential expenses that this proposed ordinance represents. Which means that the participants will also feel this effect in their pocketbook.

In closing the Palatine Park District and NWSRA are not in support of the proposed ordinance.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

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Email Address **brea@palatineparks.org**

Phone Number **8474966236**

Q8

No

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?