



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024, 10:00 AM**

[24-2303](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING SHARON JONES UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND RABIES CONTROL**

**WHEREAS**, Sharon Jones, of Monee, Illinois commenced employment in and for the County of Cook as Clerk IV in the office of Cook County Animal & Rabies Control on July 25, 2005, and will retire as Administrative Assistant 1 on April 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, during the course of working in Cook County Government, there emerges certain individuals, who, because of their exemplary service, shared concerns for Cook County communities and dedication to Cook County Animal & Rabies Control stand out; and

**WHEREAS**, unwavering commitment to achievement and an outstanding work ethic, warrant special recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, that Sharon was hired as a Clerk IV in Department of Animal & Rabies Control (ARC). In 2010 she was promoted to Clerk V and in 2018, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant I and is serving in that capacity now until her retirement date April 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon often shared encouraging words, made the team laugh with stories, stayed positive, is punctual, knowledgeable and generous with her positive outlook on life; and

**WHEREAS**, Animal and Rabies Control (ARC) is very proud and grateful to have had the pleasure of knowing an working such a beautiful, spiritual and devoted person. Receiving quarterly inspirational and motivational written pieces will be missed therefore, happy retirement Sharon.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer their sincere congratulations to Sharon Jones upon her retirement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Animal and Rabies Control (ARC) receive a ceremonial copy of this resolution for presentation to Sharon Jones and a copy be mailed to her.

[24-2677](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, STANLEY MOORE, BILL LOWRY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), ALMA E. ANAYA, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE JUNETEENTH MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, for over 150 years, Juneteenth, also known as “Emancipation Day,” and “Freedom Day,” continues to be the most recognized and the oldest African American commemorations in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 22nd, 1862, amid the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, slaves in the Confederate states, “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation laid the groundwork for the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, two and half years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest region of the United States of America celebrated June 19th, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day” as the anniversary of their emancipation; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans from the Southwest region continued the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than 150 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor and commemorate African American freedom throughout the country.

**WHEREAS**, June 19th, is now officially recognized as a ceremonial holiday in forty-seven of the fifty states, with Texas being the first to declare Juneteenth a state holiday in 1980 and Illinois in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County, the largest county in Illinois declared Juneteenth a county holiday on December 17,2020 with a unanimous vote; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Juneteenth Planning Committee was established in January 2021 partnering with organizations and communities to celebrate contributions of the many African Americans from the

past and present whose families were liberated, thereby allowing them to be free today; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Juneteenth Planning Committee partners with separate elected officials, community based organizations, residents, and Juneteenth Illinois NFP Inc. on its annual Juneteenth Illinois Celebration, an entire month of events and programs that includes the (1) Juneteenth Illinois Pres Conference, (2) Juneteenth Scholarship Reception, (3) panel discussions centered around Juneteenth program principles (Health, Justice, Education and Wealth), (4) the annual Charles R. Drew Blood Drive hosted by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, and (5) a vendor resource fair at Malcolm X College.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board, along with the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 2024 as Juneteenth Month in Cook County; observing this month with appropriate activities to heighten awareness of Juneteenth and to stimulate continuing inquiry into this rich vein of the American experience; and hereby commemorate the month of June as Juneteenth Month in Cook County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceeding of this Honorable Body to commemorate this auspicious occasion

[24-2687](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, BILL LOWRY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), ALMA E. ANAYA, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, JOSINA MORITA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL SECOND CHANCE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, statistics proves that nearly 1 in 3 American adults have criminal records, which can have serious effects on the livelihood of individuals seeking housing, careers, educational and other daily incentives necessary for people to live. Some refer to these impacts as negative connotations to changed human beings; and;

**WHEREAS**, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world accounting for more than 20% of the world's prison population, despite the United States only making up roughly 5% of the global population; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently about 40,000 plus collateral consequences that impact Americans with criminal records making it significantly difficult for these Americans to reintegrate back into their communities; and;

**WHEREAS**, the re-entry period is a critical time where both risk and protective factors can impact outcomes for returning residents who greatly benefit from support, services, and a second chance as they navigate the challenges of returning from incarceration; and:

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is truly passionate about human rights and believes that every individual in the county of Cook is endowed and treasured with human dignity, respect, and love. Cook County is committed to providing formerly incarcerated residents the support they deserve, and;

**WHEREAS**, the month of April being dedicated as Second Chance Month emboldens and reinforces the creation of new, bold, innovative, and equitable opportunities for those individuals who have already served their prison time to re-enter into society as positive, resourceful, and beneficial contributors to the community; and;

**WHEREAS**, The Second Chance Act of 2007 provides program services in the following areas:

- State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects
- State and Local Reentry Courts
- Prosecution Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison
- Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment
- Evaluate Educational Methods at Prisons, Jail, and Juvenile Facilities
- Technology Careers Training Demonstration Grants
- Offender Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration
- Responsible Reintegration of Offenders Grants for job placement and training
- Federal Prisoner Reentry Initiative
- Offender Reentry Research

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, Congressman Danny K. Davis, authored and diligently fought for the passage of the Second Chance Act which has helped over 100,000 returning Residents successfully re-enter their communities and has provided them with vital training, employment, mentoring, and treatment services. Congressman Davis, along with Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer, George Williams, and Tumia Romero, worked on developing and passing the Second Chance Act of 2007 and;

**WHEREAS**, the Second Chance Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives by 347 to 62, in the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent, and the President signed the legislation into law on April 9, 2008. Since then, the Second Chance Act was reauthorized in 2019 .and;

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Prison Fellowship, the largest national non-profit organization serving individuals that are incarcerated organized the inaugural Second Chance Month, in which over 77 organizations joined Prison Fellowship in their efforts and in 2018 over 200 organizations joined to support their efforts and;

**WHEREAS**, over the course of 2023 Cook County through the Justice Advisory Council (JAC) established a Reentry services team and dedicated approximately 23 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act funding toward rental assistance and wraparound services for returning residents through Cook County Reconnect Program: and;

**WHEREAS**, the JAC and the Bureau of Economic Development support the Chicago Cook Workforce

Partnership's Road Home program a comprehensive reentry program beginning pre-release working to eliminate the barriers to coming home successfully particularly barriers to employment; and;

**WHEREAS**, on March 29, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden announced April 2024 as Second Chance Month and called for observance of the month with the proper programs, ceremonies, and activities, while making historic investments to expand access to mental health and substance use services. A total of \$400 million was provided to prevent juvenile justice involvement, enhancing systems to be more responsive to the needs of youth, as well as 3 billion dollars being provided to fund educational programs that provide services, interventions, and support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board, along with the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as Second Chance Month in Cook County; observing this month with appropriate activities to heighten the understanding of Second Chances by promoting awareness of the legal and social barriers for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt to society.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceeding of this Honorable Body to commemorate this occasion

[24-1669](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **PROCLAIMING APRIL 20, 2024 AS, "MISSING PERSONS DAY" IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is home to a diverse population, and each year, individuals from our communities go missing under various circumstances, leaving behind families and loved ones who endure immense emotional distress and uncertainty; and,

**WHEREAS**, the observance of Missing Persons Day in Cook County serves as a poignant reminder of the countless individuals whose whereabouts remain unknown, highlighting the urgent need for collaborative efforts to address this pressing issue and provide support to affected families including access to counseling, legal assistance, and financial resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2017, the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office hosted the first Missing Persons Day in Cook County which allowed members of the public to connect with those family members missing more than one month for free by using the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, the National Crime Information Center had 97,127 active missing persons records with 39,504 records accounting for children under the age of 21 and 30,522 records for children under the age of 18; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cook County recognizes the critical role of government agencies, law enforcement bodies, community organizations, and individuals in enhancing mechanisms for the swift resolution of missing persons cases and in providing compassionate assistance to the families left behind; and,

**WHEREAS**, by designating a Missing Persons Day Cook County seeks to raise awareness, educate the public, and encourage the promotion of public awareness campaigns to educate community members about the warning signs and other factors contributing to missing persons incidents, and empower individuals to take preventive measures; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cook County reaffirms our unwavering commitment to finding answers and achieving justice for victims and their families, and declares our collective resolve to work towards preventing future disappearances and ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, on April 20, 2024, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office will hold its Missing Persons Day and for the first time utilize the ANDE Rapid DNA Technology to immediately identify biologically related family members of the missing person; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners commends the dedication and commitment of Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, law enforcement agencies including the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, local police departments and task forces, and the Consulado General de Mexico, Consulate General of Poland, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Office of the State Guardian, and neighboring coroner's offices, in their tireless efforts to investigate missing persons cases, pursue leads, and reunite families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby proclaims April 20, 2024 as, "Missing Persons Day," in Cook County, IL and encourages the citizens of Cook County to observe it annually as a day of remembrance, reflection, and action, and to facilitate community events, vigils, and outreach initiatives to honor the memories of missing individuals and offer support to their families.

[24-2231](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGREN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE OF LOREAN O. GORDON, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2024, Lorean O. Gordon passed away at the age of 91, and

**WHEREAS**, Lorean O. Gordon was born on November 6, 1932 in Chatham, Louisiana. Lorean was the eighth child born out of fourteen children to the late John Wesley McKeever Sr. and Delitha Dobbins

McKeever. In her journey was one of profound faith and unwavering devotion, instilled in her from an early age as she embraced the teachings of Christ and served as a faithful member of her community; and

**WHEREAS**, growing up in the warmth of her family's embrace, Lorean learned the values of hard work, togetherness, and unconditional love. These lessons, cultivated on her father's farm in Chatham, Louisiana, accompanied her as she embarked on her life's journey, shaping her into the compassionate and generous soul that she became; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduating from Jasper Henderson High School, Lorean ventured to Chicago, Illinois, where she continued to embody the principles instilled in her upbringing. It was there that she met the love of her life, Johnny Gordon, with whom she shared a lifetime of love, devotion, and the joy of raising six children; and

**WHEREAS**, from the Projects to the 400th Block of Harding, Lorean and Johnny created a haven of warmth and camaraderie, where relationships blossomed, and bonds grew unbreakable. Her dedication to her community extended to the creation of a beloved community garden, fostering unity and connection among neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorean leaves to cherish her memory, six children James "Snuki", John Jr., Phillip, William, Tina, and Angela; ten grandchildren, Ashanti, Monica, Jerermiah, Tabitha, Mahlika, Russell, James, Akil, Phillip II, Joshua and her very special grandbaby Isaiah (Ikey); eleven great grandchildren, Imani, Miles, Miah, Kayla, Niqalas, Jamicia, Sincere, Maliah, Brielle, Amir, and Camryn; one great-great grandchild, Kingston; five living siblings, Dortha Mae, Lucy, Richard Lee (Pearl), Troy (Mary), Charlie, and host of nieces, nephews, close cousins, extended family, and special friends.

**WHEREAS**, Lorean was preceded in death by her husband Johnny Gordon, her very special daughter-in-love Veronica Gordon, as well her siblings, John M (Bubba), Lula Mae, Eddie James, Clim Ella, Versa Lee, Willie D, Dutch, and John Jr.

**WHEREAS**, Above all, Lorean cherished her family, serving as a beacon of support, generosity, and encouragement. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and beyond, a testament to a life lived with purpose and love; and

**WHEREAS**, As we bid farewell to our beloved Lorean, we take solace in the knowledge that her love and light will continue to guide us. Though our hearts may be heavy, her spirit lives on in the memories we hold dear, forever woven into the fabric of our lives; and

**WHEREAS**, may Lorean rest peacefully, knowing that her legacy of love will endure for generations to come; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Board of Commissioners of Cook County do hereby offer their deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Lorean O. Gordon, and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable



Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the family of Lorean O. Gordon so that her memory may be honored and ever cherished.

[24-2044](#)

**Sponsored by:** BILL LOWRY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLARENCE N. WOOD, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, Clarence N Wood, Jr. was born April 14, 1940 in Birmingham, Alabama to Dr. Clarence N Wood, Sr and Lucille Fleming Wood. As a child, Mr. Wood and his parents spent a time on their family farm in Sulligent, Alabama and summers in Chicago with family. Mr. Wood grew up in the Jim Crow South and was keenly aware of the racial injustices of the South. Mr. Wood also knew the key role education played to change the negative narrative of the South; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wood attended Carrie C. Tuggle elementary school and A.H. Parker high school in Birmingham and was an early entrant to Fisk University at age 15. Mr. Wood studied Law at the University of Iowa Law School on a scholarship provided by the State of Alabama designed to prevent black people from attending southern white universities; and

**WHEREAS**, driven by the outrageous racial inequities he witnessed in his youth, Mr. Wood joined the vanguard in the fight for civil rights, served as a beacon of hope for countless people, and advocated for people who are unseen; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wood began his early career in the Public and Child Welfare Division, laying the foundation for a lifetime dedicated to the welfare of the most vulnerable. Mr. Wood was the first African American group worker with the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago exemplifying his commitment to building bridges across communities. Mr. Wood's journey with the National Urban League began in 1964 and epitomized his passionate commitment, which spanned nearly a quarter of a century.

**WHEREAS**, in 1967, at age 27 in the midst of the tumult of the Civil Rights Movement, Mr. Wood answered the call to return to Birmingham to spearhead the Urban League's fight for equity in his home state. Mr. Wood became Vice President of Field Operations, and later Vice President for External Affairs for Birmingham's Urban League chapter. Subsequently, Mr. Wood transferred to the Louisville Urban League where he met Joan Miller. Mr. Wood and Joan Miller wed in 1970 and moved to Akron, Ohio. In 1972, the Woods were blessed with the birth of their beloved daughter Carole.

**WHEREAS**, in 1974, Mr. Wood and his family relocated to Chicago to be surrounded by family and friends. In 1977, the Woods would again relocate to New Rochelle, New York where they would spend the next decade of their lives.

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, Mr. Wood came back to Chicago and became the founding president of the Chicago Community Trust's Human Relations Foundation. Mr. Wood used his love of people and

understanding of human nature to sow seeds of unity across the City of Chicago's vibrant but divided communities. Mr. Wood's vision of a tapestry of diverse threads woven into a single fabric of communal harmony guided his efforts. In 1988, Mr. Wood took on the role of managing the Community Trust's Human Relations Task Force, a diverse committee of civic leaders convened to address racial, ethnic, and religious tensions in the Chicago Metro area. Under Mr. Wood's leadership, the foundation became a cornerstone of hope and a catalyst for change, embodying the ideals of equity and understanding that he held dear.

**WHEREAS**, Clarence N. Wood was a steadfast ally of Chicago's LGBT community. Mr. Wood served for eighteen years as the head of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (hereinafter, the "Commission") making him the longest-tenured department head during the six terms of Mayor Richard M. Daley; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wood's family experiences, including having a close family member who is openly gay, as well as, serving on the national board of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, contributed to his understanding and support of LGBT issues. Additionally, Mr. Wood had a proprietary role at the Jeffery Pub, the oldest gay bar in the Chicago community; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wood was instrumental in protecting LGBT rights and supporting LGBT community institutions, such as the Commission's former Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues (hereinafter, the "Advisory Council") and the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wood's support for the LGBT community went beyond mere "lip service" and proclamations, as he was present at city events honoring LGBT veterans and made sure other communities represented at the commission understood why LGBT individuals deserve an equal place at the table; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, Mr. Wood demonstrated his commitment to LGBT rights by strongly supporting the Advisory Council's protest of an appearance by reggae singer Buju Banton at an event in Washington Park, and insisting the City of Chicago's government and the City of Chicago's Park District dissociate themselves from the event; and

**WHEREAS**, under Mr. Wood's leadership, the Hall of Fame was created as the first such municipally sponsored institution in the world and served as its president and CEO at the Jane Addams Hull House Association. Mr. Wood missed only one induction ceremony during his sixteen-year tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, upon Mr. Wood's retirement, Clarence continued his fight for justice and equality. Mr. Wood remained active in the Chicago Community, specifically with his Fisk lunch group, as a member of Beta Boule, and The Druids Club of Chicago. Mr. Wood continued his advocacy and mentorship, contributing to academia and serving on boards. He was immensely proud of his role in helping co-found and lead the Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL). When Mr. Wood was not engaged in solving Chicago issues, Mr. Wood enjoyed spending time at his beloved "Owls Nest" in Laporte, IN where he was close to nature; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wood was a dedicated family man and spent hours at stables and shows with Carole as she pursued her passion for horses. Mr. Wood and Joan hosted and attended wonderful dinner and cocktail parties with people like Ozzie Davis and Ruby Dee. Mr. Wood loved to travel and visited several countries throughout his life with his family. Despite moving, Mr. Wood treasured his many relationships and worked to stay connected to people. Mr. Wood was a connector; he never met a stranger and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Mr. Wood is preceded in death by his wife, Joan Carole Miller-Wood. Mr. Wood is survived by his beloved daughter, Carole Wood, son-in-law Carl Jenkins, partner Leisa Mosley, grand-dog Dorsey, and a host of cousins and friends; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, President Toni Preckwinkle, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby honor Clarence N. Wood for his dedication to the fight for civil rights, the City of Chicago, and the LGBT community. His unwavering support and advocacy helped to promote equality and understanding for all residents of Chicago. We are proud to recognize him as a Friend of the Community in the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER of the 3rd. DISTRICT AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT of the Cook County BOARD OF COMMISSIONER, do hereby stand, and salute the life of Clarence N. Wood.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a suitable copy of this Resolution will be presented to the family members of Clarence N. Wood.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: a copy of this Resolution will be filed within the Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District.**

[24-2077](#)

**Sponsored by:** BILL LOWRY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA DALEY MARTINO**

**WHEREAS**, it is with a heavy heart we acknowledge the passing of Patricia Daley Martino of Chicago, who left us peacefully on March 9, 2024, at the age of 86; and

**WHEREAS**, Patricia was born and raised in the city of Chicago to her parents, former Mayor Richard J. Daley, and Eleanor “Sis” Daley. Patricia attended St. Xavier Academy for Young Ladies before graduating from St. Xavier University. Patricia spent many years as a dedicated Chicago Public School English teacher, inspiring students at Mather, Kennedy, and Tilden high schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Patricia was known for her infectious laugh, her sunny disposition, and her boundless wit, which earned her the nickname Grinny from her adoring grandchildren. She had a song for every occasion and could play any tune by ear on the piano. Her quick wit, engaging stories, and sense of humor made her the life of every party; and

**WHEREAS**, Patricia loved her beautiful home in Grand Beach, Michigan, which she designed and built with her beloved husband, Peter. Patricia also cherished her return to Chicago from Hinsdale, Illinois, where Patricia spent her time as an avid reader and life-long learner. Patricia shared her love of knowledge with all who knew her; and

**WHEREAS**, Patricia was a devoted mother and friend, loved by all who knew her for her boundless generosity and love. Patricia had a multitude of friends and was always ready with a smile to brighten your mood and change your day the better; and

**WHEREAS**, Patricia is survived by her children, Courtney, Peter, and Patrick (Kathleen) Thompson, as well as her grandchildren Charles, Eleanor, Richard, Amelia, Grace, Adeline, William, and Patrick Thompson; her siblings, Mary Carol Vanecko, former Mayor Richard M. Daley, Michael (Nancy) Daley, John (Mary Lou) Daley, William (Bernadette) Daley, and many cherished nieces and nephews; and

**WHEREAS**, Patricia is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Peter M. Martino, her parents, former Mayor Richard J. Daley and Eleanor “Sis” Daley, her sister Eleanor Daley, and her in-laws, Robert M. (Mary Carol) Vanecko, Maggie (Richard M.) Daley, Barbara (Michael) Daley; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do at this moment honor the memory of Patricia Daley Martino, a cherished member of our community, a loving mother and grandmother, and a dear friend to so many. We offer our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones and express our gratitude for the joy and laughter she brought to our lives. We will always remember her with love and affection; she will be deeply missed and

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER of the 3rd. DISTRICT AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT of the Cook County BOARD OF COMMISSIONER, do at this moment stand and salute the life of Patricia Daley Martino.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a suitable copy of this Resolution will be presented to the family members of Patricia Daley Martino.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: a copy of this Resolution will be filed within the Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District.**

[24-2725](#)

**Sponsored by:** BILL LOWRY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE VICTORY OF THE WENDELL PHILLIPS WILDCATS BASKETBALL TEAM IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, Wendell Phillips high school is proudly located in Cook County’s 3rd District in the Bronzeville neighborhood. Wendell Phillips High School, the oldest African American school in the city

of Chicago and has a rich and proud legacy of producing accomplished graduates who made and will continue to make significant contributions in various fields throughout society; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wendell Phillips Wildcats achieved an incredible milestone by winning the IHSA Class 2A basketball state championship. Phillips' first such victory in more than 49 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the team faced formidable opponents with unwavering determination, showcasing resilience and teamwork in every game. The Wildcats resolve and hard work culminated in a title clinching victory in Champaign, Illinois, over Benton Consolidated High School by a score of 54-47; and

**WHEREAS**, The Wildcats, composed of talented young men who came together over the past seven months, including nine transfer students, demonstrated determination, perseverance, and teamwork on their path to success; and

**WHEREAS**, these student athletes excel both on the basketball court and in the classroom by maintaining an impressive average GPA of 3.3 out of a 4.0 scale. Their academic prowess further reflects their commitment to academic excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wildcats' victory has brought joy and pride to the Bronzeville community, the city of Chicago, and the entire state of Illinois; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY**, take this opportunity to congratulate the Wendell Phillips Wildcats on their historic achievement and to commend them for their hard work, dedication, and team spirit. We recognize the vital role the coaches, teachers, parents, and community members played in supporting and nurturing these young athletes and express our gratitude for their efforts; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE 3rd DISTRICT AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER**, we celebrate the achievements of the Wendell Phillips Wildcats Basketball team on their outstanding triumphant victory and look forward to their continued success in all their future endeavors.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a suitable copy of this resolution will be presented to members and coaches of the Wendell Phillips Wildcats Basketball team.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**: a copy of this Resolution will be filed within the **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District**.

[24-2522](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, MONICA GORDON and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK AND MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the month of April is National Minority Health Month, a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities and highlight the importance of improving their health while reducing health disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, in solidarity with National Minority Health Month, the week of April 11-17 is Black Maternal Health Week in the United States, originated by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, and officially recognized by the White House by proclamation, it is a week of awareness, activism, and community building intended to deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the US; amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions; center the voices of Black Mamas, women, families, and stakeholders; provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth and reproductive justice; and enhance community organizing on Black maternal health; and

**WHEREAS**, this year’s theme for Black Maternal Health Week is **“Our Bodies STILL Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice NOW!”**; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women in the United States experience unacceptably poor maternal health outcomes, including disproportionately high rates of death related to pregnancy or childbirth, and are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women, numbers that are mirrored in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, a person’s race should never determine their health outcomes, and pregnancy and childbirth should be safe for all. However, for far too many Black women, safety and equity have been tragically denied due to generations of systemic disadvantages in health care delivery and health care access, including lack of access to health care information and services, lack of insurance coverage, denial of therapeutics, limited access to contraceptive services, and cultural biases and discrimination in medical practice and medical education; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2022 Illinois Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans report, the crisis of non-Hispanic Black/African American infant and maternal mortality and morbidity in states, especially Illinois, mirrors the larger trends seen across the country. Non-Hispanic Black/African American women in Illinois are about three times as likely to experience a pregnancy-related death as White and Hispanic women, and Non-Hispanic Black/African American women also have the highest severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rate at 132.4 per 10,000 live births, more than two times the rate of non-Hispanic White women and significantly higher than Asian and Hispanic women; and

**WHEREAS**, both societal and health system factors contribute to the high rates of poor health outcomes and maternal mortality for Black women, who are more likely to experience barriers to obtaining quality care and often face racial discrimination throughout their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, public policies and medical practice should incentivize providing patient-centered care that focuses on Black women's individualized needs, including non-clinical social needs. Moreover, policies should endeavor to eradicate cultural biases and discrimination in medical practice and medical education, increase provider diversity in maternity care and hold individual providers and hospital systems accountable if they fail to provide unbiased, high-quality, evidence-based care; and

**WHEREAS**, the origin of National Minority Health Month was the 1915 establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington, and in 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, African American & Latinx communities have endured historically bad treatment with our healthcare system, and National Minority Health Month is a time to re-double our efforts to improve this system by listening to their concerns and work to build the trust that was lost over generations of poor treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme for National Minority Health Month is "**Be the Source for Better Health: Improving Health Outcomes Through Our Cultures, Communities, and Connections**", to highlight the important role of diverse communities, organizations, and individuals in organizations in advancing health equity and reducing health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities and other diverse populations; and

**WHEREAS**, when patients are provided with culturally and linguistically appropriate information, they are empowered to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week in Cook County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby take this opportunity to acknowledge National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with National Minority Health Month, that the month of April be hereby declared Minority Health Month in the County of Cook, and the week of April 11-17 be declared Black Maternal Health Week in the County of Cook; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[24-2523](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**DESIGNATING APRIL AS STI AWARENESS MONTH AND APRIL 14-20, 2023 AS STI AWARENESS WEEK IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, April is designated as National STI Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control designates the 2nd week in April as STI Awareness Week with the theme with the theme Talk, Test, Treat, an opportunity to raise awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they impact our lives; reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone who is sexually active can get an STI, so it is important to learn more about them and how to minimize your exposure to STIs and take care of your sexual health; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, the STI epidemic continues to worsen, and the 2022 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report underscores that STIs must be a public health priority as more than 2.5 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported in the United States, the 7th time in 8 years that the total number of reported cases was higher than the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2022 report, 50.5% of reported cases of STIs occurred among adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 24 years. The report also showed significant disparities in rates of reported STIs, including among gay and bisexual men, younger people and certain racial minority groups with 31% of all cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and P&S syphilis reported among non-Hispanic Black people, even though they made up only approximately 12% of the U.S. population, and Native American or Alaska Native people made up 3.6% of all congenital syphilis cases despite contributing to less than 1% of all live births in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that about 20 percent of the U.S. population, approximately one in five people in the U.S. had an STI on any given day in 2018, and STIs acquired that year cost the American health care system nearly \$16 billion in health care costs alone; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 20 million new STD cases in the U.S. every year. since 2000, national data shows an increase in chlamydia of 132%, gonorrhea 96%, and syphilis of 459%, and for pregnant people and their infants, congenital syphilis has increased 203% since 2017; and



**WHEREAS**, without treatment, STIs can lead to serious health problems such as severe pain, pregnancy outside the uterus, infertility, loss of eye sight, birth defects, certain types of cancers, an up to 5-fold increased risk of HIV transmission and even death, but the good news is that getting tested is easy, and most STIs can be successfully treated; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois currently ranks 11th in the nation for chlamydia infections, 15th for gonorrhea infections, 29th for primary and secondary syphilis infections, 27th for congenital syphilis, and 6th for Mpox infections; and

**WHEREAS**, public health officials stress that individuals can lower the chance of contracting STIs by limiting the number of sexual partners, getting vaccinated for vaccine preventable conditions such as HPV and Mpox virus, frequent testing and practicing safe sex; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that this esteemed body in conjunction with National STI Awareness Week and STI Awareness Month hereby recognizes and commemorates April 14-20, as STI Awareness Week and April 2024 as STI Awareness Month in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this body encourages individuals, organizations, and communities to actively participate in raising awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they impact our lives; how to reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[24-2524](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **COMMEMORATING ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, April is National Arab American Heritage Month, which celebrates the history, culture, and diverse population and the many contributions Arab Americans have made to our country; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab America and the Arab America Foundation launched the National Arab American Heritage Month initiative in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 3.7 million Americans have Arab roots, according to the Arab American Institute, with ancestries traced to 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans have diverse backgrounds and faiths, vibrant traditions, bold innovation, hard work, and a commitment to community and country; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans, both Muslim and Christian, are proud veterans of wars from the American Revolution to the Civil War to World War I and II to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans are serving proudly throughout different levels of government, bringing a diversity of expertise that helps make this country stronger, more prosperous, and more just; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab immigration to the United States began as early as the 1800s, with Arab Christians fleeing the Ottoman Empire; and

**WHEREAS**, today Arab Americans live in all U.S. states, with two-thirds residing in 10 states: California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois is home to more than 450,000 citizens who are of Arab heritage, originating from Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and 15 other Arab World countries, with the largest concentration living in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, Illinois passed permanent legislation designating April as National Arab American Heritage Month, and President Biden became the first U.S. President to declare April as National Arab American Heritage Month eloquently proclaiming, “Ours is a Nation shaped by the immigrant’s heart, and generations of brave and hopeful people from across all countries, including from the Arab world, have woven their unique heritages, customs, and talents into the tapestry of America”; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is a diverse county, which is one of our greatest strengths, and it is essential that we continue celebrating, promoting, and educating others about the myriad ways that the Arab people have advanced human civilization and contributed to the well-being of our county, state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans have advanced the nation’s achievements in business, diplomacy, science, technology, as well as in art and culture, and have also been at the forefront of the fight for civil rights and social justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to celebrate Arab American Heritage Month and affirms our commitment to advance equity and opportunity for all people;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby commemorate April 2024 as Arab American Heritage Month in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[24-2218](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUTH M. CALLAHAN**

**Psalm 37:23-24**

**"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."**

**WHEREAS**, we gather with heavy hearts to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Ruth M. Callahan, a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, and pillar of her community; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan, born on April 13, 1940, in Arkansas, entered this world as the fourth of six children to the late Benton Steve and Martha London, surrounded by a loving family; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan's unwavering faith guided her through life's challenges, leading her to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age, and inspiring her to serve her community and church faithfully; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan's commitment to her faith was evident through her service and leadership at Allen Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and True Vine Baptist Church, in Dixmoor, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan embarked on a journey of love and partnership when she was united in matrimony to Floyd Callahan Sr., in April 1959, with whom she shared 36 years of cherished memories and the blessing of four children; and

**WHEREAS**, the passing of Floyd Callahan Sr., in November 1995, marked a profound loss in Ruth M. Callahan's life, yet she remained steadfast in her love and dedication to her family, relying on her strength and faith to carry her through; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan's unwavering love for her family knew no bounds, as evidenced by her devotion to her four children: Timothy Sr., Warren, Cassandra, and Floyd Jr; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan leaves behind a cherished legacy of six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, and countless friends, all of whom were touched by her love, wisdom, and gentle spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth M. Callahan dedicated over 20 years of her life to the field of nursing, demonstrating compassion, care, and selflessness to those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, though Sister Ruth Callahan may no longer walk among us, her memory will forever live on in the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of knowing her; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we honor the life and memory of Ruth M. Callahan, celebrating her journey on earth, her profound impact on those around her, and her reunion with her Heavenly Father. Let us remember Ruth M. Callahan's words of encouragement: "Keep Stepping," as we carry on her legacy of resilience and faith, knowing that one day we will join her in the eternal dance with Jesus, Angels, and the Saints. May her soul find eternal peace and may her memory continue to bless and guide us all.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County do hereby recognize the great contributions and legacy that Ruth M. Callahan made during her years on this earth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Proclamation be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the family of Ruth M. Callahan

[24-2669](#)

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

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

### **RECOGNIZING SIKH AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years, working to grow and strengthen the country since; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Americans have been contributing to the development of the United States since the mid 19th century with their work on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific & Eastern Railway; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world today, with more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide, an estimated 500,000 in the United States, and 25,000 in the State of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Americans continue to make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of the United States through their work in areas like agriculture, information technology, small business, hospitality, trucking, medicine, technology, and the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Americans work to foster respect among all people through faith and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is committed to educating residents about the world's religions, the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of mutual understanding, and the elimination of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County seeks to further the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim and officially support April to be Sikh Awareness and Appreciation month in 2024.

[24-2685](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **IN MEMORIAM OF FORMER SCHAUMBURG MAYOR AL LARSON**

**WHEREAS**, Former Schaumburg Mayor Al Larson served as a visionary leader who guided the community for more than four decades as it grew into the second largest economic hub in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson got his start in public service when he wrote a letter to complain about snowplowing during his young family's first winter in the Village in 1969-70, which elicited a call from then-Schaumburg Mayor Bob Atcher, prompting Larson to understand the impact he could have on his community; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson soon after became a member of Atcher's Schaumburg United Party, the Schaumburg Jaycees, and the Schaumburg Environmental Committee, and was also appointed the Village's public relations director; and

**WHEREAS**, he was then elected as Trustee in 1975 where he served three terms until 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson eventually evolved into an independent voice on the Village Board after losing a re-nomination bid in 1983, when he then ran as an independent and became the first independent elected to the Village Board; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of his early initiatives as trustee, Larson helped champion funding for street lighting all across the Village through the use of simple \$3 vehicle sticker fees; and

**WHEREAS**, when former Mayor Herb Aigner announced he would not seek reelection in 1987, Larson ran against the local party candidate and won decisively; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson then went on to serve as Mayor for an astounding 32 years over the course of eight terms; and

**WHEREAS**, in his time as Mayor, Larson championed support for many of the big projects that Schaumburg is known for including a publicly owned baseball stadium - now known as Wintrust Field, the convention center, and the Village's purchase of the Schaumburg Airport to prevent it from being turned into an industrial park; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson worked to use his influence for the betterment of Schaumburg through maintaining strong relationships with other local governments, including the Schaumburg Park District and Schaumburg Township District Library, to ensure the entire community was working toward shared goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson also was an ardent supporter of the arts and cultural events in town, a commitment that was acknowledged in 2017, when the Village's Prairie Center for the Arts was renamed in his honor, a recognition that visibly moved the longtime mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, cooperation and teamwork were hallmarks of his governing style, and Larson became known for his unique combination of personality, experience, dedication to a vision, and adoration for the Village of Schaumburg; and

**WHEREAS**, Larson sadly passed away on March 19, 2024, at the age of 85;

**WHEREAS**, Larson is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Nancy, their five children Michael, Catherine, Elizabeth, David and Jennifer, his 12 grandchildren, and his sister, Lorna; and

**WHEREAS**, Al Larson was a centerpiece of Schaumburg's development and history, and as such his legacy should be memorialized and remembered;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathies to the family and many friends of Al Larson and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to the family of Al Larson, so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[24-2688](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

##### **A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LITTLE CITY'S NEW CEO, RICH BOBBY**

**WHEREAS**, Little City recently announced the promotion of Rich Bobby as their new Chief Executive Officer to take the helm of the organization; and

**WHEREAS**, with 25 years of human services experience, including 12 years at Little City, Bobby has overseen operations for all Little City's programs and support services, serving children, youth, and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich joined Little City in 2012 as the Director of the Center for Family & Community-Based Services overseeing Little City's Foster Care & Adoption, Community Clinical Services, and former Home-Based Services at their Chicago office; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2014, he became the Chief Program Officer of Adult Services, later transitioned to become the Chief Program Officer of Children's Services, and was named Chief Operating Officer in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich has led programs and services during some of Little City's most challenging times, such as a state budget impasse and through the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to joining Little City, Rich spent several years in special education, child welfare and protective services, children's residential services, in-home family services, and foster care and adoption services; and

**WHEREAS**, Bobby holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Northern Illinois University, a Master of Social Work from the University of South Florida, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW); and

**WHEREAS**, he has served for more than five years as a member of the Illinois Child Welfare Advisory Committee and as a board member for the Huntley 158 Education Foundation, now serving as Board President, which was a recent recipient of the best "Not for Profit of the Year" award by the Huntley Area Chamber of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich's personal dedication to Little City springs from knowing loved ones, individuals, families, and communities impacted by trauma, mental health, and disabilities, as well as the frequent social injustices they encounter that perpetuate these challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich believes that all things are possible at Little City, including achieving social justice through equity and inclusion for all we serve today and tomorrow;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby join Little City and the community in congratulating Rich Bobby on this well-deserved promotion and wish him all the best success in this new role; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to Little City and Rich Bobby in recognition of his new role with the organization.

[24-2022](#)

**Sponsored by:** TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING MARION NZINGA STAMPS AND THE SISTERS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THEIR DECADES OF ADVOCACY**

**WHEREAS**, Marion Nzinga Stamps and the Sisters of the Struggle (SOS), comprising Regina Harvey Stewart, Nianna Hickman, JoAnn Barron, Pauline Marshall, Addie Feazell, Polly Triplett, Makeda London, Pauline Marshall, Joyce Flake, Renay Wright, Bobbi Lockhart, Eunice Banks, and Marcia Jones, have demonstrated unwavering dedication to social justice and community empowerment since the 1970s; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Sisters of the Struggle, based in the Cabrini Green community, emerged as powerful advocates for fair housing and public housing, championing the rights of residents in the face of housing discrimination and inequality; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SOS played a pivotal role in the historic election of Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington, breaking down racial barriers and paving the way for increased representation in the city's leadership; and.

**WHEREAS**, the Sisters of the Struggle exhibited exceptional leadership by driving Chicago's first woman Mayor, Jane Byrne, out of Cabrini Green and out of office, showcasing their influence in shaping the political landscape of the city; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SOS's commitment extended beyond housing advocacy, as they fought for quality education for Chicago students, particularly those from blighted communities, leading to the establishment of the Sojourner Truth School; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Sisters of the Struggle collaborated with diverse groups from all parts of the city, including Uptown and Humboldt Park, fostering unity and solidarity in the pursuit of social justice; and,

**WHEREAS**, the SOS's enduring legacy continues to inspire current and future generations to advocate for equity, justice, and the betterment of their communities; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, honor and celebrate the impactful legacy of the SOS, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping a more equitable, just, and compassionate Cook County; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be archived as a token of the esteem held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.



[24-2646](#)

**Sponsored by:** MAGGIE TREVOR, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING APRIL 22, 2024, AS EARTH DAY**

**WHEREAS**, the very first celebration of Earth Day took place in 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Gaylord Nelson, the junior senator from Wisconsin, had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States. In January 1969, he and many others witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media, and Pete McCloskey, a conservative-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and

**WHEREAS**, they recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and they chose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation; and

**WHEREAS**, they changed the name to Earth Day, which immediately sparked national media attention, and caught on across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, it inspired 20 million Americans at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States to take to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, by the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of other first-of-their-kind environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Clean Air Act; and

**WHEREAS**, two years later Congress passed the Clean Water Act, a year after that, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act and soon after the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; and

**WHEREAS**, these laws have protected millions of men, women, and children from disease and death and have protected hundreds of species from extinction; and

**WHEREAS**, today Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create

global, national, and local policy changes; and

**WHEREAS**, by taking part in activities like picking up litter, turning the lights off, limiting water usage, and planting trees, we're making our world a happier, healthier place to live.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes Monday, April 22, 2024, as Earth Day and uses this opportunity to spread the message and participate in activities to make the world a better place.

[24-2671](#)

**Sponsored by:** MAGGIE TREVOR, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON and STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 30th, 2024, AS THERAPY ANIMAL DAY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, thousands of therapy animals and their human owners or companions volunteer in schools, nursing homes, and community centers throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system; and

**WHEREAS**, therapy animal teams throughout Cook County play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

**WHEREAS**, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, and those approaching end of life; and

**WHEREAS**, these exceptional therapy animals and their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming therapy animal volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim April 30, 2024, as "Therapy Animal Day in Cook County," and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their humans. Furthermore, we publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community.