

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:48:50 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:50:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:46
IP Address: 67.184.113.162

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Allen Sumrell
Organization (if any):	Stroger Hospital
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60624

Q2

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.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
6/18/2020 10a**

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

Respondent skipped this question

Q4

What do you want to do?

**DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING and PROVIDE
WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You
may add written comments below)**

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

I'm Allen Sumrell, and I'm part of the EVS team at Stroger. Now, let me begin by saying that I love this job, and I'm very proud and committed to keeping Stroger Hospital clean and safe for staff and patients alike. But that doesn't mean this job comes without risk, even before the COVID pandemic. I am the father of an asthmatic son, and every day I worry about his health. This fear became a reality in March, when I was diagnosed with the coronavirus. Luckily, he did not contract it. But I was not so fortunate. As the disease worsened, I lied in a hospital bed struggling to breathe. I truly thought I was going to die, and was even preparing my final goodbye to my loved ones. I thank God that I was able to pull through. But not without consequences. I now have chronic pain and breathing issues as a result of the virus. What's even worse is the treatment I received as a worker, even after coming back to work as soon as I medically could. That's why it's a shame that hazard pay isn't a given considering the dangers we face in the workplace. No more games. I almost died for this job, and yet I continue to come in because I love what I do. The time is now for Cook County to show us respect and acknowledge the pain – physical and emotional – that we workers face on a daily basis.
