



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

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

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, February 29, 2024, 10:00 AM**

**Issued on: 2-23-2024**

[24-1636](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH - 2024**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month serves as a significant occasion for the residents of Cook County to reflect upon and acknowledge the vibrant culture, storied history, and invaluable contributions of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, Carter G. Woodson's establishment of Negro History Week underscored the importance of providing a thematic focus to spotlight crucial developments that highlight the achievements and raise awareness of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the selected theme for Black History Month 2024 is “ Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: Heritage and Legacy”; and

**WHEREAS**, This theme reflects on the significance of preserving Black heritage, traditions, and history while looking forward to a future of continued progress and achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, The choice of this year's theme is particularly relevant given the current politically charged environment surrounding matters of race; and

**WHEREAS**, as articulated by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, “African Americans have persistently resisted historic and ongoing oppression in all its forms”; and

**WHEREAS**, These efforts aim to advocate for a dignified, self-determined life within a just democratic society in the United States and beyond its political jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, As noted by LaGarrett King, an associate professor of social studies education at the University at Buffalo, it represents a concerted effort to reframe the conversation about Black history around a theme of empowerment; and

**WHEREAS**, Sara Clarke Kaplan, executive director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center, aptly states, “There is no American history without African American history, as it is embedded in everything we consider as American history”; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon us to consistently reflect upon the myriad contributions and accomplishments made by African Americans in the development and growth of Cook County and the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS,** Cook County is recognizing Harvard's first Black graduate, Richard T. Greener, went on to become the first Black professor at the University of South Carolina and dean of the Howard University School of Law; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1898, Greener became the first African American diplomat to represent the United States in a white majority country when he was appointed to a post in Russia, leaving his wife and children behind; and

**WHEREAS,** When he returned to the United States, Greener took up a quiet life, settling on the South Side of Chicago with relatives and working as an insurance agent, practicing law, and giving lectures. He died in 1922 at age 78; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby honor and celebrate Black History Month in February 2024. This resolution reaffirms our commitment to recognizing and commemorating the indelible impact of African Americans on our community and the broader tapestry of American history.

[24-1400](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY 2024**

**WHEREAS,** Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, a volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities, repaired its first home in suburban Cook County in 1992, and has since rehabilitated nearly 1,900 homes, as well as assisted in the development of essential community centers and gardens; and

**WHEREAS,** Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, a national nonprofit organization, which sponsors National Rebuilding Day across the country on the last Saturday in April; and

**WHEREAS,** every year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago selects two neighborhoods in Cook County in which to provide home repair for elderly, disabled or low-income individuals; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 3,000 volunteers annually, including Cook County employees, donate their time and talents to plan and complete hundreds of free home repairs for residents in Cook County through Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's volunteer teams; and

**WHEREAS,** repairs typically focus on keeping homeowners "warm, safe and dry" and also improve access for low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, last year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago was cautious but optimistic. The County contributed \$100,000 through its Community Development Block Grant program supporting two renovations and repaired homes in south suburban Chicago Heights. As such, services to homeowners continued in a manner that keeps volunteers and homeowners safe. This year, Rebuilding Together plans another National Rebuilding Day on April 27, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, Rebuilding Together services will be rendered for homes in Park Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an example of Cook County and other local governments working in partnership with private entities to assist residents and communities in need; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize and express Cook County's sincere gratitude to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago and its participating partners, as we work together to restore homes to a warm, safe, and dry condition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that various departments, including but not limited to the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration and the Bureau of Asset Management continue to work annually with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago to determine project scope for the Cook County sponsored projects and coordinate volunteers annually for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration and Bureau of Asset Management be recognized for their ongoing efforts in determining Cook County's annual project scope and determining repairs that will be conducted by Cook County employee volunteers for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago in acknowledgment of its past accomplishments and to a successful upcoming year.

[24-1592](#)

**Sponsored by:** JOHN P. DALEY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING GARVIN G. AMBROSE AS THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE FOR COOK COUNTY'S 11TH DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Commissioner John P. Daley has nominated Garvin G. Ambrose as a distinguished black leader in the 11th District; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose earned his BS in Criminal Justice from Southeast Missouri State University and later received a Juris Doctorate from Thomas M. Cooley Law School; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose served as an Assistant State's Attorney from 2005 to 2013 and later was Chief of Staff to the Cook County State's Attorney from 2014-2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose is currently the Chief of the Bureau of Administrative Services at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office where he leads over 360 union and non-union administrative professionals at the second largest prosecutor's office in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose volunteers and serves on the advisory board for Kids Above All whose mission is to build better lives for children and families impacted by poverty, violence, and injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose serves as an advisory board member at the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, which coordinates efforts and treatment models to help children and families heal from abuse in comprehensive and seamless ways; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose is a mentor as well as an active member of 100 Black Men of Chicago which provides programming in the areas of education, health, and economic empowerment; and

**WHEREAS**, Garvin G. Ambrose is the loving husband of Toya Ambrose, and dear father of their daughter Alayah Ambrose; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Commissioner John P. Daley and the Board of Commissioners are honored to celebrate the achievements of Garvin G. Ambrose during Black History Month, as he is an individual who has made a significant impact in the lives of Cook County residents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, hereby honor, and recognize Garvin G. Ambrose for his work on behalf of the residents of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution be rendered to Garvin G. Ambrose as a means of communicating our sincere appreciation for his contributions to Cook County.

[24-1346](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, 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 LANE TECH BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS,** Lane Tech College Prep High School is a co-educational learning institution governed under the auspices of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) offering a curriculum with a particular emphasis on the technical aspect of education; and,

**WHEREAS,** Lane Tech College Prep High School has been in existence for 116 years and to date is the largest high school in Chicago with more than 4,000 students enrolled representing all races, creeds, and national origins. The faculty is comprised of 250 professional educators and over 100 additional staff; and,

**WHEREAS,** Lane Tech College Prep High School has a reputation for producing students who matriculate through ivy league institutions, are the finest leaders in engineering, medicine, mathematics, science, journalism, accounting, music, the arts, and politics to include Commissioners Monica Gordon, Donna Miller, Chief Financial Officer Tanya Anthony, a host of Cook County employees, and Lane Tech's principal Edwina Thompson, who are a portion of the Lane Tech Black Alumni Association; and,

**WHEREAS,** Lane Tech College Prep High School has a tradition of offering a competitive athletic program with more than 500 city championships, earning the nickname "School of Champions;" and,

**WHEREAS,** The Lane Tech Black Alumni Association (LTBAA) began unofficially in the late 1990s with 12 alumni of the 1980s gathering annually for breakfast the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas at a restaurant owned by a fellow Lane Tech alum for fellowship and to strengthen their bond; and,

**WHEREAS,** at the request of Mrs. Gayle Ramsey, a beloved physical education teacher Sherlanda Brooks, one of the founders of LTBAA, class of 1987, raised funds to aid Lane Tech Black Student Association members needing financial support to attend the annual black college tour; and,

**WHEREAS,** this fundraising effort formed into the annual Lane Tech Black Alumni Association and Friends Black Friday Fundraiser to raise funds to support the Lane Tech Black Student Association, a fundraiser that has grown from \$500 to \$10,000 with a goal to raise \$20,000 in 2024; and,

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Ramsey, now retired is still an active participant and works to galvanize both current and retired African American teachers from Lane Tech College Prep High School to support the efforts of the LTBAA; and,

**WHEREAS,** in 2018 the LTBAA received its not-for-profit status and in the same year instituted an annual picnic to continue to fellowship together as a group; and,

**WHEREAS,** in all efforts, the LTBAA honors the spirit of their alma mater found in the school's motto, "Wherever you go, whatever you do, remember the honor of Lane."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby celebrate the members of the Lane Tech Black Alumni Association during Black History Month; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Lane Tech College Prep High School and the Lane Tech Black Alumni Association, as a token of the esteem held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

[24-1694](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, 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 TOM SKILLING'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Tom Skilling has dedicated over four and a half decades to WGN-TV as its chief meteorologist, serving as a beacon of expertise and reliability for viewers across the Chicagoland area and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, his illustrious career began at the tender age of 14 with his first job at WKKD radio station in his hometown of Aurora where he noticed the need for accurate local forecasts; and

**WHEREAS**, later he joined a TV station in Aurora and then moved to Milwaukee and Orlando before landing his dream job at WGN-TV in 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, demonstrating his exceptional talent and passion for meteorology early on, he has since become a trusted figure in the field, renowned for his in-depth reports, enthusiasm, and utilization of cutting-edge technology; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom Skilling is known for reporting in numerous terrains and unbearable conditions, such as, Alaska, Las Vegas, an ice-breaking ship in the middle of Lake Huron and famously chased by a tornado in Oklahoma in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, his dedication to accuracy and reliability in forecasting has earned him widespread acclaim, exemplified by his accurate prediction of the Groundhog Day blizzard in 2011, showcasing his unparalleled skill and expertise in the field; and

**WHEREAS**, his role has been instrumental in establishing the Tribune Weather Center, which has enriched the meteorological resources available to the public through various platforms such as television, radio, and print media; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom Skilling has won multiple Emmys from the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and in 2018 accepted the Illinois Broadcasters Association "Broadcast Pioneer award;"and

**WHEREAS**, his renowned work as an educator and researcher has earned him accreditation through his collaborations with NASA, NOAA, and universities on climate change and other topics, in addition to funds he awards to a scholarship to assist a local college student each year; and

**WHEREAS**, his commitment to public outreach is further exemplified through his annual hosting of tornado and severe weather seminars at the Fermi National Accelerator Lab (Fermilab) for nearly four decades, as well as his extensive speaking engagements addressing climate change and environmental issues within the Chicagoland community; and

**WHEREAS**, one of his most esteemed accomplishments include the naming of asteroid 91888\_Tomskilling, reflecting his significant contributions to meteorology and broadcasting, earning him the admiration and respect of colleagues and viewers alike; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly, in 2023 Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced Tom Skilling as an Order of Lincoln recipient which commemorates Illinois residents who uplift communities in the state with their work; and

**WHEREAS**, Skilling's impending retirement in February of 2024 marks the conclusion of an extraordinary chapter in the history of WGN-TV and meteorology at large, though his legacy will continue to endure through the impact he has made on the lives of countless individuals throughout his esteemed career.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on behalf of the President, the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, this legislative body hereby extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Tom Skilling for his unparalleled dedication, professionalism, and contributions to the field of meteorology and broadcasting, and we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body as a token of our esteem and gratitude acknowledging Tom Skilling's exemplary service to WGN-TV and the Chicagoland community.

[24-1296](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) was founded in 1963 by Major Ozell Dean, the first African-American flight nurse in the United States Air Force, to address moral and social issues affecting the youth in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the founders of the Top Ladies of Distinction conceived its founding during a White House



luncheon and formally established the Top Ladies of Distinction after a meeting with former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson; and

**WHEREAS**, the Top Ladies of Distinction is dedicated to utilizing the skills and talents of women to improve the lives of young people and address critical issues facing our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Top Ladies of Distinction continues to demonstrate a commitment to excellence and consistently upholds the values of integrity, leadership, and service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Top Ladies of Distinction is a leading voice for positive change and has made significant contributions to society through various programs and initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Top Ladies of Distinction continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication and commitment to their respective fields and communities; and

**WHEREAS** the Top Ladies of Distinction's achievements and contributions continuously and profound impact society and serve as an inspiration to others; and

**WHEREAS**, the Top Ladies of Distinction consistently display grace, poise, and professionalism in all their endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Top Ladies of Distinction reaffirm their commitment to the organization's founding principles and mission to make a positive impact on the lives of young people and the communities we serve; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Major Ozell Dean, the founder of TLOD, for her vision, leadership, and dedication to improving the lives of others and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we commend the members of TLOD for their unwavering commitment to the organization's mission and their tireless efforts to make a difference in the lives of young people and the communities we serve.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we recognize the significant contributions TLOD made to society and pledge to continue our work to promote social and moral values, improve the lives of young people, and build stronger communities.

**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 Top Ladies of Distinction.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a suitable copy of this Resolution will be presented to the Top Ladies of Distinction.

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

[24-1666](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING STATE SENATOR JACQUELINE COLLINS**

**WHEREAS,** State Senator Jacqueline Collins served the people of Illinois with distinction and honor since her election in 2003; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins was and continues to be a tireless advocate for her constituents, consistently fighting for issues on behalf of the residents of the 16th District, such as education, healthcare, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins showed and continue to show a deep commitment to social justice, working to address issues of inequality and discrimination in all forms; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins currently serves as an Illinois Human Rights Commissioner, where she plays a critical role in providing a neutral forum for resolving complaints of discrimination under the Illinois Human Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins consistently demonstrates her commitment to ensuring all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and equality; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins is a tireless advocate for marginalized and underrepresented communities, working to address issues of inequality, and social justice; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins is a leader in the Illinois Senate, serving as Chair of the Senate Financial Institutions Committee and as a member of several other important committees; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Collins earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues on both sides of the aisle for her dedication to public service and her ability to work collaboratively to achieve meaningful results, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY** express their deepest gratitude and appreciation to State Senator Jacqueline Collins for her many years of service and dedication to the people of Illinois. Her leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to social justice have made a significant and positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and families in our state. We are proud to have her as a colleague and a leader in the Illinois Senate

**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 State Senator Jacqueline Collins.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** a suitable copy of this Resolution will be presented to the State Senator Jacqueline Collins.

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

[24-1675](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, 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, 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 JERRY T. JONES FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED LIFE AND CAREER IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS,** Jerry T. Jones (born JT Jones) was born on March 25, 1936 in Sledge, Mississippi by way of a midwife; and

**WHEREAS,** when JT was eight years old, his uncle gave him a battery powered radio and he was immediately fascinated by the ability to listen to music and other programs from places as far away as Helena, Arkansas; His interest was so great that at the age of eight, he declared that he was going to make radios when he grew up; and

**WHEREAS,** in the summer of 1949, JT and his parents migrated from Sledge to Chicago because JT, at the age of twelve, had endured an increasing amount of threats from the white community on his life; and

**WHEREAS,** when JT made it to Chicago, he enrolled at Wendell Phillips high School, located on Chicago's South Side at 39th Street and Prairie Avenue, which served as a bedrock education for JT and he graduated at 16 years old in 1952 as the youngest person in his class; and

**WHEREAS,** in the fall of 1952, JT enrolled at the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, which was only a 2-year college at that time, so after finishing there, JT enrolled in night school at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago campus to continue his education; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout his college years, JT landed several jobs that were very instrumental to his life; His first job was as a draftsman at Western Electric, which was a subsidiary of AT&T; After a year, JT

was able to apply for a job at Argonne National Laboratory, which is owned by the US Department of Energy, but is operated by the University of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, after working for two years in the Chemical Engineering Division at Argonne Laboratory, he was offered a job at the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute (IITRI) and while working at IITRI's Chemical Engineering Division and later their Physics Division, JT received his degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology with concentrations in physics and electrical engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, during JT's time at the IITRI, he also became active in the civil rights movement, including participating in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama and he also became active in local politics, becoming a precinct Captain in the neighborhood he lived; and

**WHEREAS**, one of JT's main objectives was to provide jobs for Black men and women on the South Side of Chicago, and so in March of 1966, JT started Soncraft, an engineering and manufacturing company on the Chicago's South Side; JT's dreams began to come into focus and in 1970, Jerry was awarded the Illinois Small Businessman of the Year award and later would go on to win the largest government contract ever awarded to a small business in 1982 with an estimated value of approximately \$300 Million; and

**WHEREAS**, while President and CEO of Soncraft, JT also sat on the Board of Trustees at IIT, the National Business League, formerly the National Negro Business League, which was founded by Booker T. Washington in 1900, the Advisory Board of the U.S. Secretary of Treasury, the Regional and National Advisory Boards of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Advisory Council of the NCAAP. and was also a founder and chairmen of the National Association of Black Manufacturers, which sought to create and foster the development of Black owned businesses, later joining the Board of the National Association of Manufacturers and became a board member of the Chicago Association of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in the basement of JT's house, Soncraft was truly a family affair as Jerry's stepfather Robert worked at Soncraft until he retired; JT's son Jerome worked in Sales and Business Development; His son Bertrand worked in Legislative Affairs and Business Development, while his daughter Lara was employed in Human Resources Management, and together they helped grow the company to employ over 500 people; and

**WHEREAS**, JT currently lives in Lynwood, IL in the 6th Cook County District and remains active in the community;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in celebration of Black History Month, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners proudly honors Jerry T. Jones for his distinguished and trailblazing career and for his service to the community, the City of Chicago and to Cook County; and

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

Honorable Body and a suitable copy be presented to Jerry T. Jones as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[24-1677](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, 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, 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**

**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 27TH, 2024 AS GO RED DAY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the month of February is recognized as American Heart Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual celebration began in 1963 to encourage Americans to join the battle against heart disease and each year a presidential proclamation pays tribute to researchers, physicians, public health professionals and volunteers for their tireless efforts in preventing, treating, and researching heart disease; and

**WHEREAS**, heart disease (including coronary heart disease, hypertension, and stroke) remains the No. 1 cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States and cardiovascular diseases claim more lives each year than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined accounting for 1 in every 4 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, heart disease is the leading cause of death in Cook County as well, accounting for 10,270 deaths in 2022 of that, 5,018 were in the City of Chicago and 5,252 were in suburban Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the estimated annual incidence of heart attack in the United States is 805,000 new attacks, 605,000 are first attacks and 200,000 are recurrent attacks with Americans suffering a heart attack approximately every 33 seconds; and

**WHEREAS**, although some progress has been made, it's important to make sure all Americans have access to quality care and as a country we should continue to focus on "Life's Simple 7," which refers to the American Heart Association's seven goals of eating a healthy diet, exercising regularly, avoiding excess weight, not smoking, and keeping blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar within a healthy range; and

**WHEREAS**, although heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans, disparities exist with nearly half of all non-Hispanic black adults having some form of cardiovascular disease: 47 percent of females and 46 percent of males; and

**WHEREAS**, since the outbreak of COVID-19, there have been even higher mortality rates due to the effect the disease has had on individuals with pre-existing health conditions, primarily those which are cardiovascular-related. The American Heart Association found that the already sizable Black-White life-expectancy gap has now grown to over ten years due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, by 2035, more than 130 million adults, or 45.1% of the U.S. population, are projected to have some form of cardiovascular disease and total costs of CVD are expected to reach \$1.1 trillion in 2035, with direct medical costs projected to reach \$748.7 billion and indirect costs estimated to reach \$368 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, hospitals and health systems around the country celebrate American Heart Month by helping to raise awareness in their communities about heart disease, with staff wearing red and volunteers knitting or crocheting pint-sized red hats for newborns, as well as holding free screenings and heart health awareness events; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Donna Miller creating a CPR & AED training awareness campaign and expansion of training access as well as a resolution creating a virtual “hands only” CPR & AED training as part of the on-boarding process for new employees, which is available to all county employees providing the knowledge needed so we can eliminate one of the barriers to not being able to survive a heart attack; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the “Bystander Effect” statistics that is especially troubling is that African Americans and Hispanics are 30-50% less likely to have bystander CPR performed if they suffer an incident and compared to white children, bystander CPR was 41% less likely for black kids, 22% less likely for Hispanics and 6% less likely for other ethnic groups; and

**WHEREAS**, women are also less likely to receive bystander CPR because people fear accusations of inappropriate touching, sexual assault, or injuring the person, with only 39% of women receiving bystander CPR in public compared to 45% of men and men’s chances of surviving a cardiac event are 23% higher than women; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Heart Association is celebrating its Centennial in 2024 with “Bold Hearts” and a vision for advancing health and hope for everyone, everywhere with a renewed focus on CPR, and an urgent need to create a Nation of Lifesavers; and

**WHEREAS**, data shows that CPR initiated by a bystander can nearly double or triple the chance of survival from cardiac arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, a new survey conducted in 2023 by the American Heart Association suggests that increased visibility of the need for CPR has had a positive impact on someone’s willingness to respond if they are bystanders in a cardiac emergency; however, although 35% of respondents have the confidence to perform CPR when needed, an increase from 30% in 2021, only 39% of those surveyed are familiar with conventional CPR and only 23% with Hands-Only CPR and fewer than half of people suffering

out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive the immediate CPR they need before professional help arrives; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 90% of the 350,000 people who experience a cardiac arrest outside of the hospital each year will not survive; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of American Heart Month and heart health in Cook County and encourage all Cook County employees to take advantage of the Virtual CPR & AED training available on the County Human Resources Training platform as well as the in-person training offered today in partnership with Illinois Heart Rescue;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and 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 American Heart Month and officially recognizes February 2024 as Heart Month in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with American Heart Month, February 27th 2024 be hereby declared “Go Red Day” in the County of Cook and encourages everyone to wear red on said day to create awareness of and in recognition of American Heart Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body in recognition of American Heart Month.

[24-1509](#)

**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 PASTOR JAMES EDWARD ALBRIGHT**

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the LORD.”  
2 Corinthians 5:8.

**WHEREAS**, James Edward Albright, born on February 21, 1937, in Byhalia, Mississippi, transitioned into eternity on February 5, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, James Edward Albright accepted Christ at an early age and was saved on January 21, 1964; and

**WHEREAS**, James Edward Albright was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Gwendetta, for over 55 years, and a loving father to his three daughters, Lisa, Richelle, and Joanna. As well as a cherished

grandfather to his twelve grandchildren and great-grandchild; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 50 years James Edward Albright has dedicated his life to serving his country, as a member of the United States Navy for 8 years defending our nation with honor and patriotism. A dedicated employee of the United States Postal Service for 30 years, and as co-pastor of Roseland Bible Church for 46 years, providing spiritual guidance, support, and inspiration; and

**WHEREAS**, James Edward Albright pursued a seminary degree from Emmaus Bible College, Chicago, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, James Edward Albright was a man of integrity, known for his impeccable sense of style and his commitment to his family, friends, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, James Edward Albright will be remembered for his love, faithfulness, and servant leadership, thereby his legacy will live on in the hearts and memories of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, let it be proclaimed that we honor the life and memory of Pastor James Edward Albright, and express our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his passing. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his spirit continue to inspire us to live lives of love, faithfulness, and service to others; and

**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 James Edward Albright made during his 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 James Edward Albright.

[24-1684](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF KEITH RICHARD RENFROE**

**WHEREAS**, Keith Richard Renfroe, a beloved son of Chicago, Illinois, was born to Ismay Littleton and Eugene Renfroe, on August 10, 1951. He transitioned into eternity on February 2, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of love, courage, and boundless joy; and

**WHEREAS**, Keith Richard Renfroe was preceded in death by his brother Neil Renfroe and sister Angela Ashford. He is survived by his devoted wife Pam, loving children Keith Jr., Tina, Kietha, and Kyle,



three bonus children Michael, Phillip, Michelle; his cherished siblings Gene Renfroe, Gia Renfroe, Jennifer Hathaway, Everett Renfroe, Raol Renfroe, and Cheri Love. He will be especially missed by his 16 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, colleagues, and friends, all of whom were touched by his kindness, generosity, and infectious spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, above all, Keith Richard Renfroe was a devoted husband, father, and cherished friend. His unconditional love and unwavering support brought joy to his family and all who had the privilege of knowing him; and

**WHEREAS**, Keith Richard Renfroe's life was a testament to his unwavering pursuit of exhilarating challenges and enriching experiences from serving in the National Air Force to his dedicated tenure in the Cook County Sheriff's Department, and as a Lieutenant in the Chicago Fire Department for 31 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Keith Richard Renfroe boundless passion for adventure led him to embrace various roles, including that of a clinical psychotherapist, skilled pilot, and the visionary behind the beloved "Relax, Relate with Renfroe" dating service and talk show; and

**WHEREAS**, Keith Richard Renfroe devotion to his community and support for organizations such as the Tuskegee Airmen and the Young Eagles Chicago Program embodied his unwavering dedication to inspiring and uplifting others; and

**WHEREAS**, fueled by his admiration for superheroes, particularly Batman, Keith Richard Renfroe embodied heroism in his own right, forever swooping in to save the day for those closest to him. His boundless generosity, perhaps to superpowers, touched countless lives, offering solace and healing to all who knew him; and

**WHEREAS**, Keith Richard Renfroe infectious personality, radiant smile, and genuine kindness brought joy to all who had the privilege of knowing him leaving behind cherished memories that will forever endure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, let it be proclaimed that we, the community, as we mourn Keith Richard Renfroe passing, let us celebrate his remarkable life and the indelible mark he left on our hearts. Though he may have departed this earthly realm, his spirit remains eternal, forever enriching the universe with his boundless love and infectious smile. May peace be his eternal journey, and may his spirit soar among the heavens, forever watching over us.

**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 Keith Richard Renfroe made during his 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 Keith Richard Renfroe.

[24-1701](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING 15TH DISTRICT BLACK HISTORY MONTH NOMINEE HERB PORTER**

**WHEREAS**, Herb Porter has served as a Trustee for the Village of Hanover Park since 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter also serves as the current Deputy Mayor of the Village of Hanover Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter is the longest serving African American local elected official in the Northwest suburban area, with a service record of nine years across three terms; and

**WHEREAS**, he additionally serves as a current member of the Sister Cities Committee, which has received recognition for its production of both Black History Month and Juneteenth celebrations; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter is additionally a member of the Executive Board of the DuPage County NAACP; and

**WHEREAS**, he also serves as a Governing Board member for both CEDA and the Housing Authority of Cook County as well as The Alignment for Collaborative Education; and

**WHEREAS**, his work with these organizations, continuous effort, and dedication has been put into combatting poverty and assisting community members in getting their basic housing and education needs met; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter also serves on the Legislative Committee for the Northwest Mayors Municipal Conference and chair of the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter is member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the first African American Greek letter Fraternity; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter's dedication to his community is rooted in the advancement of the diversity in the Village, serving to promote multicultural experience, commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and develop a sense of belonging and identity for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Porter, with his wife Eva Porter who served as a United 46 School Board Member, have helped push forward a new generation of dedicated public servants, with his eldest daughter Chantelle Porter becoming the first Black female judge in DuPage County as of December of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, for all his work in service to his community and across Cook County, Trustee Porter was selected as the 15th District's nominee in recognition of Black History Month;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Herb Porter for all his contributions to Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to Herb Porter in honor of his nomination.

[24-1433](#)

**Sponsored by:** SEAN M. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL STRICK**

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick was the beloved Husband of Melissa Strick for 33 years, beloved father of Sydney Strick, Jackson Strick, and Benjamin Strick, beloved son of Jerome Strick and late Maria Luisa Strick, beloved brother of Jeff Strick, Mandi Harenberg, and Michael Strick and the beloved uncle and friend of many; and

**WHEREAS**, In Daniel Strick's free time, he enjoyed fishing, watching soccer, and spending time with his family and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick was a Beecher resident, formerly of Matteson and New Lenox, a graduate of Lincoln-Way High School Class of 1981, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Illinois State University and Master's Degree in Public Administration from Governors State University; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick was a fierce advocate and human rights leader; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick worked 20 years at South Star/New Star/Sertoma Star Services as Chief Executive Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, For a collective 120-plus years, the New Star and Sertoma Centre agencies have provided state-of-the-art services and programs to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Sertoma Centre's Community Mental Health and Counseling has been a leader in supporting those living with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Star and Sertoma Centre agencies are proud of their positive impact within communities in the south suburbs of Chicago and northwest Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick was a key figure in determining the direction New Star and Sertoma Star would take, emphasizing activities and community service projects that would improve the lives of people living in the Sertoma Star Services community; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick placed a high value on providing the best possible person-centered care for the individuals Sertoma Star supports; and

**WHEREAS**, this will be one of Daniel Strick's continuing legacies; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick was not just the leader at Sertoma Star where he is deeply missed, but a good friend as well; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Strick was a well-known figure in Illinois, recognized for his positive influence and energetic participation in the community, consistently demonstrating unwavering commitment and vision;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Cook County Commissioner Sean M. Morrison and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby extend their gratitude for the courageous and robust life of Daniel Strick as they offer their deepest condolences to his friends, family, and communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Daniel Strick as an honorable expression of appreciation for his life and work..

[24-1696](#)

**Sponsored by:** ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING ANGELICA GREEN, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER**

**WHEREAS**, Angelica Green grew up in the Austin neighborhood on the City of Chicago's West Side, where her village of neighbors helped her parents shape her into the woman she is today; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica has been a dedicated community organizer and an advocate who uplifts the concerns of her neighbors and who works hard to bring people together; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica's values are rooted in family, community, and integrity. She believes that community is not just a group of individuals living in an area but an extension of family - one that works together to create an enriching and thriving environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica has been instrumental in starting up the first Police District Council for the 25th

District, where she works to make her community safer by listening to her neighbors, organizing meetings to discuss concerns, and championing community-based solutions to violence in the 25th Police District; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica has collaborated with local officials and community groups to increase the quality of life in her community by advocating for community funding and resources, becoming an ambassador for the neighborhood policing initiative, and using the 25th District Police Council meetings as a space to share skills like emergency first response skills and Know Your Rights trainings; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica has been a dedicated advocate for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities through her work at the Chicago non-profit organization Misericordia; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica founded her own non-profit - the proactive youth connection café - which serves young people in the Austin community and delivers resources and programs to youth to build a safer community; and

**WHEREAS**, what Angelica is most proud of is being a mother of three kind and intelligent children; and

**WHEREAS**, Angelica is an amazing example of what love for community can look like in action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of the county, do hereby honor Angelica Green as this year's Black Influential Leader of the 8th District for her great contributions, dedication, and service to the residents of the 8th District and all of Cook County.

[24-1453](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

##### **DEATH RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. CHARLES DUKES, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Charles Dukes, Jr. was born in Chicago, IL to the proud parents of Charles and Aida L. Dukes; and,

**WHEREAS**, he graduated from Dunbar Vocational High School in 1968 and attended Alamba A&M University; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles began a 37-year federal career with the Department of the Army at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama and later was reassigned to Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, IL; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles was a consummate entrepreneur, owning businesses over the years; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles' kind and compassionate nature was highlighted by the care he provided to his mother, father, siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews in their times of need; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles was baptized in the Baptist Church and attended St. Eulalia Catholic Church with his wife and quickly adopted to the Catholic faith. He exemplified Christian values each day of his life; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles was preceded in death by his beloved mother, father, and brothers Marshal, Tony, Rodney, and Robert; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles departed this life January 16, 2024 after 17 days in the ICS, his suffering is now over; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Gay, sisters Gloria and Diane, children, Charles, Felecia, William (Dana), and Lindsey, grandchildren Jehazz, Ashley, Amber, Christopher, Sheldon, Aaron, and Tamia, and a host of family friends and loved ones; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charles deeply loved his family and his presence will be deeply missed; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby celebrate the life of Mr. Charles Dukes, Jr, and offer condolences to his family; and,

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

[24-1498](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING ALEXANDRA AUGUSTE AS A DISTINGUISHED BLACK LEADER**

**WHEREAS**, Alexandra Auguste currently serves as Director of Community Investments at the Boston Women's Fund (BWF), where she oversees the grant making programs and practices while deepening relationships with grantees and partners; and,

**WHEREAS**, Before joining BWF, Alexandra served as the Director of National Partnerships at The BASE, a sports and academic non-profit organization located in Boston, MA.; and,

**WHEREAS**, Prior to joining The BASE, Alexandra served as the Professional Advisor Relations Officer and Donor Services Manager at the Boston Foundation; and,

**WHEREAS**, Alexandra began her professional career at Goldman Sachs Agency Lending in Boston, MA. where she held operational positions within Securities Lending. With over 10 years of experience in finance, she has proven her ability to excel in both team-based and autonomous settings that require strict adherence to deadlines and strong attention to detail; and,

**WHEREAS**, Alexandra earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Boston University. She is a versatile manager with strong organization, communication and executive management skills. She brings an array of experience from operations, administration and finance, managing strategic partnerships, marketing and event planning; and,

**WHEREAS**, Alexandra is the co-founder and executive director of Community Leadership Fellows (CLF), a leadership development experience that involves; educational workshops, tactical trainings, collaborative learning, coaching, mentoring and networking; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognizes Alexandra Auguste as a distinguished Black leader in our community during Black History Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Ms. Auguste, as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

[24-1600](#)

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

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

### **DEATH RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE GEONVANIS**

**WHEREAS**, Christine Geonavis served as communications director of the Chicago Teachers Union and was a lifelong and passionate advocate for social justice; and,

**WHEREAS**, Christine was born in 1959 to Thomas Geovanis, a former steelworker who became a Chicago City Colleges professor, and Rita Geovanis, nee Van Curen, who became an Early Childhood Education teacher and director; and,

**WHEREAS**, Christine grew up in the Roseland and Austin neighborhoods, where she attended Brennan and Ella Flagg Young schools. She completed elementary school at Charles E. Piper and graduated from Morton West High School in Berwyn; and,

**WHEREAS**, Christine began her social justice work at a very young age, canvassing door-to-door for progressive political candidates and defending the rights of Palestinians to their homeland during elementary and high school. During two years at the University of Chicago, she honed her critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills, and she continued to develop her strong artistic skills through classes at U. of C. and at The Art Institute of Chicago; and,

**WHEREAS**, Christine had a 17-year career in Cook County Government in employee communications. In 2017 she began working for the Chicago Teachers Union as Communications Director. Her messaging helped rally broad support for teachers during the 2019 strike. She also helped the Union communicate its focus on educational equity throughout the district; and,

**WHEREAS**, Christine enjoyed warm relationships with many of the education reporters in the city and suburbs, while serving the interests of CPS teachers and staff under CTU presidents Karen Lewis, Jesse Sharkey, and Stacy Gates; and,

**WHEREAS**, In 1992, she met the love of her life and her collaborator in social justice work, Dick Reilly. Together over 27 years, they started HammerHard MediaWorks and Chicago Indymedia, two alternative news media sites providing community-driven journalism free of corporate interests; and,

**WHEREAS**, Christine died peacefully on February 12, 2024 at her home after a long illness. She was predeceased by her father Thomas; her stepfather Floyd Lung; her mother Rita; and her beloved partner Dick Reilly; and,

**WHEREAS**, She is survived by her siblings Nick Geovanis, Janet Geovanis, Vivienne Geovanis, and Carla (Tony Tallmadge) Geovanis; spiritual brothers Jeff Pickert and Scott Mechanic; nephews Jon Geovanis-Hollister, Isaac Geovanis-Schwartz, Theodore Geovanis-Schwartz, and Max Tallmadge; aunts Helen Bergman and Sandy Van Curen; cousin Becki Gerson; extended family in the Midwest and Germany; friends in the US and around the world; and her beloved dog Solo; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby celebrate the life of Christine Geovanis, and offer condolences to his family; and,

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



[24-1719](#)

**Sponsored by:** MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING REVEREND CLYDE BROOKS AS A DISTINGUISHED BLACK LEADER**

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Clyde Brooks currently serves as the Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR); and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks, long a champion of justice and equality, served as a National Board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks has long been instrumental in the movement to create affordable housing in the Northwest Suburbs of Cook County, serving on the board of the Northwest Opportunity Center in the 1960s; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks has served as the National Director for Fair Labor and Equal Employment Opportunity for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks has helped to build a number of organizations, including Behavior Research in the Social Sciences (BRASS) and the Minority Economic Resources Corporation, serving as that organization's Chairman and CEO for more than 30 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks served on the faculty of Harper College and was the first African American to teach African American History at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks has a long history working with law enforcement and corrections. He served as a probation officer and a law enforcement officer, retiring after 20 years as a Deputy Sheriff. He served on the Mount Prospect Fire and Police Commission, Reverend Brooks was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, The Illinois Commission on Human Rights, and served as a consultant to the Illinois Department of Corrections; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks served as a member of the Chicago Commission on Youth Welfare and as a teacher and high school counselor; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Brooks received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Western Illinois University; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognizes Reverend Clyde Brooks as a distinguished Black leader in our community during Black History Month; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Reverend Brooks, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.