



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

Consent Agenda

for the

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 11:00 AM

The following item was deferred at the 4/1/2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.

15-2450

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, GREGG GOSLIN, STANLEY MOORE, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HON. ABISHI C. CUNNINGHAM JR. AS PUBLIC DEFENDER OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, after graduating from Fisk University with a Bachelor of Science in 1969; and the Northwestern University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate in 1972. The Honorable Abishi C. Cunningham Jr., a native of West Virginia, became a member of the Illinois Bar; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stint as legal advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction he joined the Cook County State's Attorney's office as a felony trial assistant, Judge Cunningham would also serve as Chief of the Vertical Prosecutions Unit. Later in his career, he would rejoin the State's Attorney's office as a supervisor of all misdemeanor and quasi-criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the State's Attorney's office in 1976, Judge Cunningham joined the Criminal Defense Consortium of Cook County as a Supervisor of that organization's Lawndale office; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cunningham joined the bench as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge in 1986. During his time on the bench, he presided over thousands of bench trials, hundreds of jury trials, and was appointed by the Chief Judge to mentor newly appointed and elected judges. His last judicial assignment was in the Law Division, where he presided over an array of civil matters; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2009, after being appointed by then County Board President, Todd Stroger, Judge Cunningham was sworn into the office of Public Defender of Cook County by his sister and Presiding Judge of the Sixth Municipal District, Hon. Marjorie Laws; and

WHEREAS, during his six-year term as Public Defender, Judge Cunningham has diligently carried out his mission to uphold the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Illinois; and protect the rights, liberties, and dignities of every person his office was appointed to represent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and the Cook County Board of

Commissioners that we, along with his family, friends, and the citizens of Cook County whom he has spent his exemplary career serving and protecting, honor him for his dedicated service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to Hon. Abishi C. Cunningham Jr.

15-2519

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND AND RECOGNIZING THEIR 25th ANNIVERSARY GALA IN CHICAGO

WHEREAS, The American Indian College Fund was founded in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the College Fund's mission is to transform Indian higher education by funding and creating awareness of the unique, community-based accredited Tribal Colleges and Universities, offering students access to knowledge, skills, and cultured values which enhance their communities and the country as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the College Fund prides itself on being the largest scholarship providing organization for American Indian and Alaska Native people on a national basis; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian College Fund serves American Indian and Alaska Natives from all federally recognized tribes as well as the 34 accredited tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) nationwide that are located on or near Indian reservations to provide access to a quality higher education for Native American populations; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian College Fund provides scholarship support for American Indian and Alaska Native students as well as financial support to the 34 accredited TCUs nationwide, including programmatic support to ensure student success, cultural and language preservation, early childhood education, leadership development, and the development of intellectual capital; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian College Fund's 25th anniversary events commenced in 2014 and will continue throughout the 2014-2015 academic year as an opportunity to educate others about the American Indian College Fund's mission while securing financial support for scholarships and tribal college support throughout major metropolitan areas across the United States, including Chicago, which enjoys a large Native American population; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian College Fund's 25th Anniversary Gala will be held Friday, May 8, from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the historic Drake Hotel in Chicago.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and recognize the American Indian College Fund for great work on behalf of American Indian and Alaska Natives and wishes them a successful 25th Anniversary Gala.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be sent to the American Indian College Fund.

15-2616

Sponsored by: JOHN A. FRITCHEY, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, May is National Mental Health month, dedicated to raising awareness about mental illness and related issues in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), nearly 60 million Americans experience a mental health condition every year; mental illness impacts the lives of at least 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 10 children across the United States, regardless of race, age, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential component of overall health and well-being and is tied to the balance that exists between our emotional, physical, spiritual and mental health; and

WHEREAS, negative attitudes, stereotypes and misunderstandings about mental illness create tremendous barriers for people with mental illness as well as their families; and

WHEREAS, promotion and prevention are effective ways to reduce the burden of mental health conditions and, with effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, governments have cut billions from their mental health budgets, shuttering clinics across the country including here in Illinois and Cook County, resulting in thousands of mentally ill people funneling in and out of our jails that are ill-equipped to handle them, effectively criminalizing mental illness; and

WHEREAS, in Cook County, it is estimated that up to 30% of inmates being held in the county jail have a mental illness on any given day, making the jail the nation's largest mental health facility; and

WHEREAS, it costs \$143 per day to house an inmate at the Cook County jail but due to the costs of medication and the extra supervision and care that are required to support inmates suffering from mental

illness, that number increases to upwards of \$200 per day; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, faith-based organization, health care provider, and citizen has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare the month of May as Mental Health Month in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Cook County to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body...end

15-2656

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY 1, 2015 AS NATIONAL LAW DAY

WHEREAS, Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share; and

WHEREAS, Law Day has its origin in 1957, when American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by issuing a Proclamation proclaiming it "fitting that the people of this Nation should remember with pride and vigilantly guard the great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law which our forefathers bequeathed to us." Every President, since President Eisenhower, has issued an annual Law Day Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 1961, Congress passed a Joint Resolution, designating May 1 as Law Day. The theme of Law Day 2015 is "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law"; and

WHEREAS, this Law Day marks the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the "Great Charter" issued at Runnymede in England in 1215. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize that Magna Carta has come to embody a simple but enduring truth: No one, no matter how powerful, is above the law; and

WHEREAS, Magna Carta's most oft-cited provision, Chapter 39, declares, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions ... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." In this provision, Americans can associate the early roots of our cherished due process rights with Magna Carta; and

WHEREAS, Magna Carta is an international symbol of freedom under the law and an inspiration for many basic rights revered by Americans, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel; and

WHEREAS, Magna Carta has been cited in over 170 U.S. Supreme Court opinions most often in support of due process of law and trial by jury which are legal tenets at the heart of the American justice system; and

WHEREAS, Law Day, May 1, 2015, will provide an opportunity to commemorate this "Great Charter of Liberties," and rededicate ourselves to advancing the principle of rule of law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize May 1, 2015 as National Law Day and its theme of "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cook County Law Library will be celebrating Law Day 2015 with outreach focused on advancing the principle of rule of law in the spirit of Magna Carta.

15-2978

Sponsored by: LUIS ARROYO JR, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

WHEREAS, Youth Service Project (YSP) was founded by Nancy Abbate and incorporated in 1975. For the past 40 years YSP has been a cornerstone in the development and assistance for at-risk youth and families of the Greater Humboldt Park area; and

WHEREAS, currently spearheaded by Kenny Martin-Ocasio, YSP continues to be a beacon for the youth and families of Humboldt Park, Hermosa, Logan Square, Belmont Cragin, West Town and Austin. Serving almost 3,000 young people annually, 95% of these youth coming from low-income or single parent homes, YSP has transformed the lives of many by maintaining their core service areas; and

WHEREAS, YSP continues to strive to provide a safe and supportive environment to enhance the lives of youth, the communities and families affected. Using creative programming, YSP cultivates a trusting relationship with youth to enhance overall quality of life for the youth as well as to better identify the needs of these children and how best to serve them; and

WHEREAS, by offering youth educational, recreational, violence prevention, violence intervention, violence reduction, arts and culture, youth development and community building programs, YSP will continue to help these youth overcome difficulties and stabilize their lives and provide these children with the safest space to grow, learn and express themselves; and

WHEREAS, YSP remains on course with their core value services, the at-risk youth of these communities will continue to benefit for years to come from programs such as: "To The Moon" Art program, Addiction Intervention, Transitional Living, Independent Living, Crisis Intervention, Clinical Services, Youth Leadership Academy, Career & Workforce Development, Girl Empowerment, Anti-Bullying, Teen Parenting Skills and Juvenile Justice Community Support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby do what you are suggesting or endorsing with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognize Youth Service Project's 40th Anniversary on this date, April 29, 2015 and commend YSP on their never ending dedication to the youth, families and community of the aforementioned.

15-2994

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE EXCEPTIONAL LIFE AND LEGACY OF HIS HOLINESS KHANANIA MAR DINKHA IV CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

WHEREAS, beloved humanitarian, cleric and theologian Patriarch Khanania Mar Dinkha IV, who was the 111th Catholicos-Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, died in exile from Assyria on March 26, 2015. His Holiness spent his last days as a citizen of Morton Grove and in exile was the spiritual leader of nearly half a million adherents from throughout parts of India, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Georgia, Oceania; and

WHEREAS, Patriarch Khanania Mar Dinkha IV devoted himself to keeping the Assyrian faith community alive throughout the world and tirelessly worked to protect the customs and language of the world's first Christians; and

WHEREAS, Patriarch Khanania Mar Dinkha IV was consecrated as Patriarch on October 17, 1976, and served nearly 39 years as Patriarch; the tenth longest in church history. He moved the Holy See of the Church of the East to Morton Grove, shortly after his consecration because of political instability in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Patriarch Dinkha promoted closer relations with the Catholic Church, both with the Vatican and the Chaldean Catholic Church; he first met Pope John Paul II immediately after the Pope's election in 1978 and made his first visit to the Vatican in 1984. The two continued to meet informally over the next decade. After a decision by the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East to have better relations with the Roman Catholic Church in 1994, Dinkha agreed to a Joint Christological Declaration with the Holy See; and

WHEREAS, Patriarch Dinkha is credited with rebuilding the church, which had neared the brink of destruction after the assassination of his predecessor. He translated portions of the liturgy from classical Assyrian to modern Assyrian and brought stability and peace to a church in turmoil; and

WHEREAS, Khanania Mar Dinkha IV was born and baptized in the Church of Mar Qaryaqos which is located in the village of his birth, Darbandokeh, Assyria; and

WHEREAS, on July, 15, 2007, Patriarch Khanania Mar Dinkha celebrated Fifty years of his priesthood. A ceremony was held at Saint George Cathedral in Chicago. In his honor a portion of Ashland Avenue was renamed "His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV Blvd." Later, in 2008, he received an honorary degree from the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Patriarch Khanania Mar Dinkha IV's funeral service was held on April 8, 2015 at Saint George Church in Chicago; hundreds of thousands of the Assyrian diaspora throughout the world participated through a live broadcast by Assyrian National Broadcasting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County commemorates the extraordinary life of His Holiness Khanania Mar Dinkha IV, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable and innumerable contributions he has made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this honorable body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East to commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy of his Holiness Khanania Mar Dinkha IV.

15-3009

Sponsored by: LUIS ARROYO JR, County Commissioner, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, JOHN P. DALEY, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, GREGG GOSLIN, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, PETER N. SILVESTRI and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

WHEREAS, May 3rd is a Polish national and public holiday that celebrates the declaration of the Constitution of May 3, 1791; and

WHEREAS, the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 is considered one of the most important achievements in the history of Poland; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution is generally regarded as Europe's first and the world's second modern codified national constitution, following the 1788 ratification of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's history and cultural wealth have been shaped and enriched by Polish-Americans and their commitment to helping make our county a better place to live, work and raise families; and

WHEREAS, the Alliance of Polish Clubs in the U.S. and in the Polish-American community have continued their tradition by celebrating the 224th anniversary of Polish Constitution Day; and

WHEREAS, this national and public holiday is celebrated by persons of Polish descent all over the world, in Cook County, and in Chicago, which is the home of the largest community of Polish-Americans in the United States. Chicago has one of the grandest celebrations of Polish Constitution Day in our country; and

WHEREAS, Polish Constitution Day has been a focal point of ethnic celebrations of Polish- American pride in Chicago, dating back to 1892. Poles in Chicago have continued this tradition to present day, marking it with festivities and with the annual Polish Constitution Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, the Polish Constitution Day Committee and the Polish-American community have organized the Polish May 3rd Constitution Day Parade on May 2, 2015, along Dearborn Street, from Lake Street to Van Buren St.; that was Chicago's 124nd celebration of the Polish Constitution of 1791.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2015, to be "Polish Constitution Day" in Cook County, and urge all County residents to recognize this anniversary and be aware of the many contributions that the Polish-American community has made to this County.

15-3029

Sponsored by: PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING ANTHONY C. BRZEZNIAK

WHEREAS, the Polish American Police Association of Chicago has named Anthony C. Brzezniak as Person of the Year for 2015; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak has been the Schiller Park Chief of Police since 2013; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving as police chief Anthony Brzezniak worked as Area Commander for the Cook County Sheriff's Police from 2008-2013; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak served in various other capacities for the Cook County Sheriff's Office, including as Field Training Coordinator, Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Detective, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak brought his expertise to the Cook County Domestic Violence Council where he was the Law Enforcement Chair for six years; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak served as consultant for the Walgreens Corporation from 2005-2007 where he consulted on emergency management response to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak worked for the FBI as Task Force Detective from 1996-2000; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak is a graduate of Western Illinois University and the Executive Management Program at Northwestern University; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Brzezniak has received numerous awards for his departmental and investigative work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Anthony Brzezniak for being named Person of the Year by the Polish American Police Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Anthony Brzezniak at the Polish American Police Association's celebration on May 1, 2015.

15-3032

Sponsored by: PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING DIANN K. MARSALEK

WHEREAS, the Polish American Police Association of Chicago has named Diann K. Marsalek as Person of the Year for 2015; and

WHEREAS, Diann Marsalek is the Supervising Judge of the District 1 Traffic Section of the Cook County Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving as judge Diann Marsalek worked as the legal advisor to the Illinois Secretary of State from 2006-2011; and

WHEREAS, Diann Marsalek was the chief legal counsel at the Illinois Department of Corrections from 2003-2005; and

WHEREAS, Diann Marsalek is a member of a wide variety of bar associations, including the Chicago Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association, the Cook County Bar Association, the Justinian Society of Italian Lawyers, the Decalogue Society, the Advocate Society of Polish Lawyers, the Hellenic Bar Association, the Asian American Bar Association, and the Gay and Lesbian Bar Association, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Diann Marsalek's civic involvement includes various leadership positions, including serving as the former president of the Lake View Citizens' Council and the president of the 23rd District Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, Diann Marsalek received her BA in Political Science and her MA in Sociology from DePaul University, and Diann received her JD from Northern Illinois College of Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Diann Marsalek for being named Person of the Year by the Polish American Police Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Diann Marsalek at the Polish American Police Association's celebration on May 1, 2015.

15-3051

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, County Commissioner, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, GREGG GOSLIN, STANLEY MOORE, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Francis Cardinal George from our midst, and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George, who retired as Chicago Archbishop in the fall of 2014, died on April 17, 2014 after a long fight with cancer, and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George will be remembered in the words of Chicago Archbishop Blase Cupich as “a man of great courage,” and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George was appointed to Chicago in 1997 by Pope John Paul II, and became a leading figure of his era in many of the most important events in the American church, and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George’s concern for interreligious dialogue and his outreach to all communities of faith were a cornerstone of his tenure as Archbishop of Chicago; and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George was the first Chicago native to become the city's Archbishop, hailing from Chicago's northwest side, and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George earned two doctorates, spoke Italian, Spanish, French and other languages, wrote several books, and was a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, eventually helping lead the religious order as vicar general based in Rome, and

WHEREAS In 1990, Francis Cardinal George was appointed Bishop of Yakima, Washington and then Archbishop of Portland, Oregon, and

WHEREAS Francis Cardinal George will be remembered as a man of devout faith, courage, and unwavering leadership, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its deepest condolences to the family of Francis Cardinal George and the Archdiocese of Chicago, 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 that a suitable copy of same be tendered to the family of Francis Cardinal George and the Archdiocese of Chicago so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

15-3052

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, County Commissioner, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, GREGG GOSLIN, STANLEY MOORE, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING APRIL 2015 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion, and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with autism is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life, and

WHEREAS, Autism is a spectrum disorder, which means that no two people with autism are affected in the same way, and it is a complex developmental disability that usually appears during the first three years of life, and

WHEREAS, Autism results in a neurological disorder that affects how the brain functions as well as the development of social and communication abilities, and

WHEREAS, One in 68 children is diagnosed with this spectrum disorder and its prevalence has increased thirty percent since 2008, and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 1,500,000 people live with autism spectrum disorder in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Autism Society estimates that the United States is facing almost \$90 billion annually in costs for autism, and

WHEREAS, while a single specific cause of autism is not yet known, current research links it to biological or neurological differences in the brain, and outdated theories and myths, such as autism being a mental illness, have been scientifically proven to be false, and

WHEREAS, with support and understanding, people with autism can live full lives and make meaningful contributions to society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and an official copy of same be presented to the Autism Society of Illinois.