



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Human Relations Committee**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

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

**Issued on: 4/22/2024 - Public Hearing**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

[24-1768](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MEN AND BOYS IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board reaffirms that trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation are crimes, grave violations of human rights, and public health issues that affect individuals across gender, sex, age, and nationality, with a significant yet underrecognized impact on men and boys; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has described Chicago, Cook County's largest city, as having a robust sex trade, a claim that is further supported by the following: a recent Department of Justice (DOJ) study estimated that 3,303 young adults ages 18-24 are engaged in the sex trade in the city. This data parallels informed estimates from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless that Chicago has 15,744 homeless youth ages 14-24, a quarter (27.5%) of whom have likely sold sex to survive with 60% of Chicago's homeless youth identifying as male, a conservative estimate of male victims in Chicago places this figure at 2,500 male victims, for whom there are virtually no gender-specific services available. An additional study exploring the relative participation of male- to female-identified victims found that 36% of youth (14-24) engaged in the sex trade are male; and

**WHEREAS**, societal misunderstandings, stereotypes, and stigma around victimhood lead to a lack of identification of men and boys as victims and survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation from those from whom they seek help, including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social services, and handicaps prevention by parents who are significantly less likely to use filtering software on their son's computers versus their daughter's; and

**WHEREAS**, the current landscape of support services and resources for male-identified victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, including only one residential program for males in the nation and a small minority of social service agencies nationally and locally who are willing to serve males, is significantly lacking in provisions for male victims, including contributing to their further marginalization and suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board acknowledges the necessity of a comprehensive, inclusive, and intersectional approach to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which includes addressing the specific needs of male victims; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board hereby commits to the following actions to address trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of men and boys in Cook

County, Illinois: and

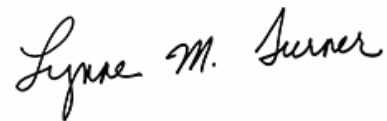
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners request a convening of the Cook County Human Relations Committee to conduct a hearing; and

1. **Establish a task force or a subcommittee within the current Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force:** Create a dedicated task force or a subcommittee within the current Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force to encourage effective cooperation and coordination of efforts in partnership with other anti-trafficking advocates such as law enforcement, social-service agencies, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and survivor advocacy groups to combat trafficking in persons and exploitation of men and boys in Cook County.
2. **Develop Specialized Support Services:** Allocate funding and resources to develop and implement specialized support services for male victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and exploitation, including safe housing, medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, job training, and more.
3. **Raise Awareness and Training:** Launch public awareness campaigns to shed light on male victimhood, including the social, economic, cultural, and political factors that make men and boys vulnerable to trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, unemployment, inequality, sexual violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion, and marginalization, as well as the social and cultural bias around males. Additionally, develop comprehensive training programs for law enforcement, healthcare providers, educators, and social-service personnel to identify male or male-identified victims among vulnerable populations through appropriate, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory measures.
4. **Promote Research and Data Collection:** Encourage and support research initiatives to gather data on the trafficking and exploitation of men and boys to better understand their needs and improve the effectiveness of interventions and support services. Conduct research and collect suitable disaggregated data to enable proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons for men and boys specifically.
5. **Engage Community and Survivor Voices:** Foster strong partnerships with community organizations and ensure the meaningful involvement of survivors in shaping policies, services, and awareness efforts to ensure that interventions are survivor-informed and culturally sensitive.
6. **Advocate for Policy Changes:** Advocate for changes in local, state, and federal policies to recognize the needs of male victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and to ensure that laws and regulations are inclusive and supportive of all victims, regardless of gender.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board shall review the progress of these initiatives annually and adjust as necessary to ensure that Cook County is a leading example of comprehensive and inclusive support for all victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. That a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body this 29th

day of February 2024.

**Legislative History :** 2/29/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Human Relations Committee



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Secretary

Chair: K. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Trevor

Members: Anaya, Gordon, Miller, Quezada, Stamps