



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

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

**BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Monday, May 20, 2024, 10:00 AM**

**Special Meeting in Memory of County Clerk Karen A. Yarbrough  
Issued on: 5/13/2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL OF MEETING READ INTO RECORD**

**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> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room D, Chicago, IL. 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.

**PRESIDENT**[24-3038](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE COOK COUNTY CLERK KAREN A. YARBROUGH**

**WHEREAS,** Karen A. Yarbrough's life journey began on August 22, 1950, when her parents, Donald Williams, Sr. and Mercedes Moore welcomed her into the world; and

**WHEREAS,** Karen A. Yarbrough was a wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, friend and mentor to many. She lived her life with a passion for helping others and exemplified what it means to be a public servant. She was a true trailblazer who inspired a generation of young women and men to follow her example of putting service before self; and

**WHEREAS,** Karen A. Yarbrough earned her B.A. in Business Management from Chicago State University, a Master's Degree in inner-city studies from Northeastern Illinois University, attended Harvard's Kennedy School of Government's Advanced Leadership Studies, a Certificate of Public Leadership from Pepperdine University and a certificate as a Certified Election Registration Administrator from Auburn University; and

**WHEREAS,** Karen A. Yarbrough served as an Illinois State Representative, Cook County Recorder of Deeds, and Cook County Clerk. In these roles, she always stood up for what was right, even when it was unpopular to do so. She never backed down from tough battles, and was proud to serve as a voice for the voiceless, the poor and those needing a second chance in life; and

**WHEREAS,** As a State Representative, Karen A. Yarbrough was a force to be reckoned with. She was able to overcome the influence of special interests to ban smoking indoors in public buildings, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to abolish the death penalty in Illinois. Her tireless work ethic and effectiveness in the Capitol earned her an appointment as Assistant House Majority Leader; and

**WHEREAS,** As Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Recorder Yarbrough took a position that was historically thought of as ministerial, and turned it into one of advocacy. As Recorder, she established a Property Fraud Unit that served to protect Cook County residents from having their properties stolen from

fraudsters, opened an office dedicated to improving the lives of our Veterans, and created the Property After Death workshops that went into communities and informed residents of the importance of sound estate planning; and

**WHEREAS**, As Cook County Clerk, Clerk Yarbrough overcame a number of unprecedented challenges that required creativity, determination and a steady hand. She administered an election through a global pandemic and oversaw the assumption of duties of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds by the Cook County Clerk. She also partnered with the Center for Disability and Elder Law to help families hold onto their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, Karen A. Yarbrough was a force in the Democratic Party serving as the Proviso Township Democratic Committeeperson, Vice Chair and Interim Chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois and State Central Committeewoman for the 7th Congressional District of Illinois. In these roles, she helped a countless number of candidates win election to public office in the State of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Karen A. Yarbrough was a dedicated member of Grace Central Church, served as the President of the Maywood-Proviso Rotary Club, and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY: the President and its members do hereby hold their reverence in honor of the historic life of the Honorable Cook County Clerk Karen A. Yarbrough, as they offer their deepest condolences to her friends, family, and communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of the Honorable Cook County Clerk Karen A. Yarbrough as an expression of appreciation for her life and work. She was an inspiration to us all.

**RESOLUTION IS MOVED AND SECONDED FOR APPROVAL**

**RESOLUTION IS READ INTO THE RECORD**

**REMEMBRANCES**

**STANDING VOTE**

**ADJOURNMENT**