



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

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

BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 9:00 AM

Consent Agenda - Issued on 4/4/2025

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 F, 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Pursuant to Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Post Board Action Agenda and Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Clerk of the Board.

[25-1869](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and SCOTT R. BRITTON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NATIONAL LAW DAY 2025 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, representatives from thirteen disparate but United States of America declared independence from a tyrannical king and proposed as their motto, “E Pluribus Unum”-or “Out of Many, One”-a phrase symbolizing the unity of a nation founded on the ideals of liberty, equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, the drafters of the Constitution, seeking to prevent tyranny by any one group, separated the powers of the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary among three branches of government, ensuring no one faction could rule unchecked; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, the American people have continued to pursue “Out of Many, One,” including with the 14th Amendment granting citizenship to all born or naturalized in the United States and the 15th and 19th Amendments by extending voting rights regardless of race or sex; and

WHEREAS, the United States has always consisted of many viewpoints, religions, and experiences, and the trajectory of this country has been to include more voices, thus becoming a true representative democracy of the many; and

WHEREAS, immigrants from around the world continue to come to the United States to embrace our shared democratic values and enrich our culture and economy; and

WHEREAS, public education was designed to serve as a unifying force, providing an economic benefit, instilling values of civic virtue, and bringing social classes together to form “one” educated citizenry; and

WHEREAS, we the people are united by our shared responsibility to contribute to the common good, through jury duty, voting, taxes, and military or public service; and

WHEREAS, we the people are also brought together in pursuit of legislative efforts that promote healthcare, education, clean air and water, national emergency responses, and national parks; and

WHEREAS, while the United States has made great strides in realizing “E Pluribus Unum,” inequalities still persist, and political polarization threatens our shared sense of community; and

WHEREAS, in 1958 President Eisenhower proclaimed Law Day to honor the role of law in the creation of the United States of America, and in 1961 Congress issued a joint resolution declaring May 1, Law

Day; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Law Day 2025 is “The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One,”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County Law Library will celebrate Law Day by continuing in its mission of providing access to legal research resources, educational opportunities, and legal reference support for the people of Cook County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Law Office Cook County Public Defender will celebrate Law Day by continuing in its mission to protect the fundamental rights, liberties and dignity of each person whose case has been entrusted to the Law Office Cook County Public Defender by providing the finest legal representation.

[25-1911](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

EARTH MONTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, and is widely recognized as a day to reflect on the importance of the natural world, bringing together communities to support environmental action, and April has come to be known as “Earth Month” by extension; and

WHEREAS, under Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle’s leadership, Sustainable Communities is a pillar of the Cook County Offices Under the President Policy Roadmap Strategic Plan, to support healthy, resilient communities that thrive economically, socially and environmentally by prioritizing efforts that reduce the County’s climate impact, improve the resiliency of communities, reduce pollution and support green infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Cook County works to improve accessibility to green spaces including 70,000 acres supported by the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and the County recognizes the numerous plant and animal species and ecosystems that deserve protection and require responsible stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Sustainability has been engaging with residents through surveys, town halls and public input to learn more about environmental concerns and share a first draft Environmental Justice Policy for Cook County, co-developed by an internal working group made up of representatives across multiple County Departments and Agencies and a Community Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Asset Management has coordinated actions across the County in an effort to meet the goals outlined in the Cook County Clean Energy Plan including pursuing renewable energy efforts, reducing emissions in Cook County buildings and improving efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Cook County supports residents in reducing their environmental impact and improving health through programs such as Healthy Homes for Healthy Families and Sun and Save residential renewable energy subsidy, engages businesses in free assessments on pollution reduction through Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) and replaces lead water lines through LeadCare Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County continues to reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills through recycling and diversion efforts and collaborating with partners to implement the Solid Waste Management Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners commemorates and celebrates Earth Month in Cook County, recognizing the significant accomplishments and progress made to date by the County in fighting climate change and ensuring a healthy and clean environment for all people and places in Cook County, and continues our commitment to supporting further positive actions to benefit our communities and the environments in which they live, work and play.

[25-2049](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY

WHEREAS, Scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams throughout Cook County play an essential role in improving human health and well being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students and those approaching the end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare April 30th, 2025, as National Therapy Animal Day, and we encourage the residents of Cook County to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers. Further, we salute the service of therapy animal teams in our communities and across the nation.

[25-2311](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

WHEREAS, the first years of a child’s life represent the most rapid period of brain development, laying the foundation for future learning; and

WHEREAS, there are 353,032 children from birth through age five in Cook County, including 139,520 living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2024, 42,548 children in Cook County participated in the Child Care Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, participation in high-quality early childhood education and care programs saves taxpayer dollars, enhances family economic stability, and prepares children to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and lead healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, young children need access to developmentally appropriate, high-quality early childhood education that is affordable and locally available in their communities; and

WHEREAS, access to these programs supports child development and helps parents secure and maintain employment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that investing in high-quality early childhood education provides a significant return on investment through long-term social and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, working families require an adequate supply of affordable, high-quality child care options; and

WHEREAS, early childhood educators need access to comprehensive support services, including infant and early childhood mental health consultation, partnership with Early Intervention therapists, and resources that enhance quality care; and

WHEREAS, care workers remain undervalued and underpaid, and they deserve fair wages to attract and retain a qualified, stable workforce; and

WHEREAS, the quality of early childhood education depends on the expertise of educators who partner with families to foster strong early learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, current tuition from fee-paying parents and public subsidy rates are typically insufficient to support highly qualified early childhood educators and maintain the low child-to-educator ratios necessary for child health and safety; and

WHEREAS, vital programs such as Head Start are under threat at the federal level, jeopardizing access to essential early learning opportunities for families with low incomes; and

WHEREAS, we commend Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly for creating the new Department of Early Childhood Education through the passage of SB1, which consolidates early childhood services from three agencies to streamline and improve services for families and caregivers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County recognizes April 5-11 as Week of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cook County urges federal, state, and local leaders to prioritize and expand investments in high-quality early childhood education and care to support the well-being of all children and families.

[25-2312](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 30, 2025, AS “NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY” IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, National Therapy Animal Day was created by Pet Partners to celebrate the exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions to bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners has designated April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting the benefits of animal assisted therapy, activities, and education; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States, including in Cook County, and they play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams make millions of visits each year to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, and hospice care settings, assisting a diverse cross section of the community including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, pet therapy is proven to have a myriad of health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, and lowered blood pressure, irritability, and stress; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that therapy animals also benefit from their work, noting that therapy dogs displayed higher rates of endorphins and oxytocin than average family pets; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating National Therapy Animal Day we also recognize the dedicated human handlers, who undertake extensive training with their therapy animal partners, and who generously volunteer their time and compassion; and

WHEREAS, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby celebrate the extraordinary service of therapy animal teams in Cook County and throughout the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby proclaims April 30, 2025, as, “National Therapy Animal Day,” in Cook County, IL and encourages the citizens of Cook County to honor and celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers.

[25-2161](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK AND MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the month of April is National Minority Health Month, a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities and highlight the importance of improving their health while reducing health disparities; and

WHEREAS, in solidarity with National Minority Health Month, the week of April 11-17 is Black Maternal Health Week in the United States, it is a week of awareness, activism, and community building intended to deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the US; amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions; center the voices of Black Mamas, women, families, and stakeholders; provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth and reproductive justice; and enhance community organizing on Black maternal health; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme for Black Maternal Health Week is "**Healing Legacies: Strengthening Black Maternal Health Through Collective Action and Advocacy**,"; and

WHEREAS, Black women in the United States experience unacceptably poor maternal health outcomes, including disproportionately high rates of death related to pregnancy or childbirth, and are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women, numbers that are mirrored in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, a person's race should never determine their health outcomes, and pregnancy and childbirth should be safe for all. However, for far too many Black women, safety and equity have been tragically denied due to generations of systemic disadvantages in health care delivery and health care access, including lack of access to health care information and services, lack of insurance coverage, denial of therapeutics, limited access to contraceptive services, and cultural biases and discrimination in medical practice and medical education; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Illinois Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans report, the crisis of non-Hispanic Black/African American infant and maternal mortality and morbidity in states, especially Illinois, mirrors the larger trends seen across the country; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the 12-month ending provisional maternal mortality rates by race ending June 2024 are as follows: Hispanic or Latina 13.8 per 100,000 live births, White non-Hispanic 15.3 per 100,000 live births, Asian non-Hispanic 14.6 per 100,000 live births and Black; and

WHEREAS, both societal and health system factors contribute to the high rates of poor health outcomes and maternal mortality for Black women, who are more likely to experience barriers to obtaining quality care and often face racial discrimination throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, public policies and medical practice should incentivize providing patient-centered care that focuses on Black women's individualized needs, including non-clinical social needs. Moreover, policies should endeavor to eradicate cultural biases and discrimination in medical practice and medical education, increase provider diversity in maternity care and hold individual providers and hospital systems accountable if they fail to provide unbiased, high-quality, evidence-based care; and

WHEREAS, the origin of National Minority Health Month was the 1915 establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington, and in 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution; and

WHEREAS, African American & Latinx communities have endured historically bad treatment with our healthcare system, and National Minority Health Month is a time to re-double our efforts to improve this system by listening to their concerns and work to build the trust that was lost over generations of poor treatment; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme for National Minority Health Month is "**Advancing Commitments to Eliminate Health Disparities**" to highlight the important role of diverse communities, organizations, and individuals in organizations in advancing health equity and reducing health disparities among racial and ethnic minority and other diverse populations; and

WHEREAS, when patients are provided with culturally and linguistically appropriate information, they are empowered to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their communities; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week in Cook County and to honor the work done to improve health disparities in Cook County and Illinois;

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 National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conjunction with these two important commemorations, that the month of April be hereby declared Minority Health Month in the County of Cook, and the week of April 11-17 be declared Black Maternal Health Week in the County of Cook; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[25-2163](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS STI AWARENESS MONTH AND APRIL 13-19, 2025, AS STI AWARENESS WEEK IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, April is designated as National STI Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control designates the 2nd week in April as STI Awareness Week with the theme with the theme Talk, Test, Treat, an opportunity to raise awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they impact our lives; reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, anyone who is sexually active can get an STI, so it is important to learn more about them and how to minimize your exposure to STIs and take care of your sexual health; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, the STI epidemic continues to be widespread, and the 2023 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report underscores that STIs must be a public health priority as more than 2.4 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this includes over 209,000 cases of syphilis, over 600,000 cases of gonorrhea, and over 1.6 million cases of chlamydia. Importantly, the combined count includes 3,882 cases of congenital syphilis, including 279 congenital syphilis stillbirths and neonatal/infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, significant disparities in reported sexually transmitted infections (STIs) persisted in 2023. Adolescents and young adults aged 15-24 accounted for nearly half of all reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by STIs, especially gonorrhea and primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis. Co-infection with HIV is common among MSM, with 37.2% of MSM with P&S syphilis having HIV. In 2023, 32.4% of all cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and P&S syphilis were among non-Hispanic Black or African American individuals, despite comprising only 12.6% of the US population. Rates of P&S syphilis and congenital syphilis were highest among American Indian or Alaska Native individuals; and

WHEREAS, these disparities are likely due to unequal access to high-quality sexual health care and differences in sexual network characteristics, not just variations in sexual behavior. For instance, in communities with a higher prevalence of STIs, individuals face a greater likelihood of encountering an infected partner during each sexual encounter. Recognizing these disparities and their causes is crucial for empowering affected communities and the public health sector to address systemic inequalities in disease burden; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that STIs acquired cost the American health care system nearly \$16 billion in health care costs alone each year; and

WHEREAS, without treatment, STIs can lead to serious health problems such as severe pain, pregnancy outside the uterus, infertility, loss of eyesight, birth defects, certain types of cancers, an up to 5-fold increased risk of HIV transmission and even death, but the good news is that getting tested is easy, and most STIs can be successfully treated; and

WHEREAS, Illinois currently ranks 11th in the nation for chlamydia infections, 13th for gonorrhea infections, 25th for Congenital Syphilis, and 31st for primary and secondary syphilis infections; and

WHEREAS, public health officials stress that individuals can lower the chance of contracting STIs by limiting the number of sexual partners, getting vaccinated for vaccine preventable conditions such as HPV and Mpox virus, frequent testing and practicing safe sex;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this esteemed body in conjunction with National STI Awareness Week and STI Awareness Month hereby recognizes and commemorates April 13-19, 2025, as STI Awareness Week and April 2025 as STI Awareness Month in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body encourages individuals, organizations, and communities to actively participate in raising awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they impact our lives; how to reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[25-2234](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE KENWOOD ACADEMY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR HISTORIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

WHEREAS, the Kenwood Academy Girls Basketball Team cemented its legacy in the annals of Illinois high school sports by capturing their first-ever Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 4A State Championship with a decisive 65-44 victory over Palatine’s William Fremd on Saturday, March 16, 2025, at Illinois State University’s CEFCU (Redbird) Arena in Bloomington-Normal; and

WHEREAS, the Broncos demonstrated an unparalleled level of skill, perseverance, and synergy throughout the 2024-2025 season, culminating in a stellar 35-3 record and solidifying their standing as the premier team in the State; and

WHEREAS, under the astute and inspirational leadership of Head Coach Andre Lewis, along with Assistant Coaches Ky Gavin, Adrian McDaniel, Demon Page, Billy Survillion, Kimmey Barksdale, and Beverly Chick, the Kenwood Academy Girls Basketball Team exhibited extraordinary tenacity, fortitude, and discipline, executing a commanding 14-2 fourth quarter run to decisively claim their championship title; and

WHEREAS, senior point guard Danielle Brooks, who amassed a game-high 24 points, and senior small forward London Walker-George, who contributed 19 points along with exemplary defensive efforts, displayed exceptional performances significantly propelling the Broncos to victory; and

WHEREAS, the team’s defensive intensity proved instrumental in neutralizing Fremd’s offensive threats, particularly in the final quarter, underscoring the Broncos' unwavering commitment to excellence and competitive rigor; and

WHEREAS, despite challenges such as key players encountering foul trouble, the Broncos maintained composure and resolve, with senior guard Ariella Henigan emerging as a linchpin of leadership and motivation for her teammates; and

WHEREAS, this historic championship represents not only a landmark achievement for Kenwood Academy but also an indelible source of pride for its students, faculty, alumni, and the entire Kenwood community; and

WHEREAS, the Kenwood Academy Girls Basketball Team’s historic triumph is a testament to the collective dedication of its outstanding roster, including players Danielle Brooks, Icesis Thomas, Amillya

Henigan, Ariella Henigan, Jade Hamilton-Gill, Makayla Triplett, Emmarie Leonard-Collins, Danielle Waddy, London Walker-George, Logan Ramsey, Diann Jackson, Journey Stanford, Kyndall Burgess, Indiah Zarbock, and Shalia Poole; and

WHEREAS, the team's success was also made possible by the invaluable contributions of their support staff, including statisticians Josefina Kitson, Laila Love, and Laila Richardson-Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, the Broncos' victory serves as a beacon of inspiration for future generations of student-athletes at Kenwood Academy, epitomizing the virtues of perseverance, teamwork, and academic-athletic excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners formally extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Kenwood Academy Girls Basketball Team, Head Coach Andre Lewis, the coaching staff, and all players for their extraordinary and historic achievement in winning the 2025 IHSA Class 4A State Championship; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that an official copy of this Resolution be entered into the permanent records of the **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry, 3rd District**, and the **Office of the Cook County Board President**, to the Kenwood Academy Girls Basketball Team as an enduring tribute to their remarkable success and to commemorate this momentous occasion in Cook County history.

[25-2240](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE WALTER H. DYETT HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

WHEREAS, the Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts, a venerable institution located in the heart of the Bronzeville-Washington Park community, achieved an unprecedented milestone in its athletic history by securing the Illinois High School Association (IHSAA) Class 2A Boys' Basketball State Championship on March 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Dyett Eagles, under the resolute and visionary leadership of Head Coach Jamaal Gill-who also serves with distinction as the school's Athletic Director and Head of Security-emerged victorious with a final score of 52-41 over Belleville Althoff Catholic High School at the University of Illinois' State Farm Center in Champaign, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, this historic victory represents the school's first-ever state championship in basketball and serves as a crowning achievement to a season marked by perseverance, cohesion, and athletic excellence, culminating in a remarkable 27-7 overall record and a resounding seven-game winning streak to close the season; and

WHEREAS, the team's triumph was fueled by the extraordinary performances of its senior stalwarts, including Jayden McKinnon-whose poise and precision earned him a game-high seventeen (17) points-and Ricky Coleman, whose multifaceted contributions included ten (10) points and seven (7) rebounds, exemplifying the indefatigable spirit of the Eagles; and

WHEREAS, Dyett High School was once slated for closure in 2015, The community, parents, students, teachers, and organizations like the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO), salvaged and revitalized Dyett High School through a monumental 34-day hunger strike, leading to Dyett's 2016 reopening as a sustainable community school dedicated to the holistic development of its students; and

WHEREAS, the Eagles' championship run is emblematic of this broader institutional renaissance, serving as an allegory for the power of collective action, educational equity, and the indomitable will of a community determined to uplift its youth; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of this accomplishment reverberates far beyond the hardwood. Dyett High School's Boys' Basketball Team's accomplishment is a profound affirmation of the latent potential within our public schools when nurtured with resources, mentorship, and unrelenting support from their

surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Principal Dori Butler, Coach Gill, the student-athletes, and every member of the Dyett High School community have demonstrated not merely athletic prowess, but an unwavering commitment to discipline, teamwork, and scholastic excellence, thereby becoming paragons of inspiration across the County of Cook; and

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE 3rd DISTRICT, AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER, hereby recognize, extol, and formally congratulate the Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts Boys' Basketball Team for their monumental victory in the 2025 IHSA Class 2A State Championship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Coach Jamaal Gill, Principal Dori Butler, and the Dyett Eagles as a symbol of this Board's profound admiration and enduring support. **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd.**

[25-2075](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANNIE PEARL HOWARD

WHEREAS, the esteemed Annie Pearl Howard, born on May 6, 1938, in Jackson, Mississippi, graced this world with a presence defined by unwavering love, resilience, and boundless wisdom; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Howard was the beloved daughter of Nina Mae Jones and Johnnie “Buster” Jones, who instilled in her the values of faith, perseverance, and compassion, guiding Mrs. Howard on a journey touching the lives of many; and

WHEREAS, from Mrs. Howard’s early years, Annie Pearl embodied the essence of strength and devotion, accepting Christ into her heart and embracing the virtues of kindness and service; and

WHEREAS, after receiving her foundational education at Martin Elementary School and later attending Parker High School, Mrs. Howard exemplified the highest standard of commitment to her family, pausing her studies to return to Jackson, Mississippi, to care for her ailing father while continuing her education at Jim Hill High School; and

WHEREAS, life’s path led Mrs. Howard to New Orleans, Louisiana, where she found a love transcending time in Roosevelt “Cat/Catman” Howard, forging a union rooted in mutual respect, shared culture, and an enduring bond that withstood the tests of time; and

WHEREAS, together, Annie Pearl and Roosevelt Howard built a life filled with love and purpose, raising their children-Gwendolyn Annette, Yvette, Johnny “Man,” and Randy-with the same values of faith, community, and integrity she so passionately embodied; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Mrs. Howard and her beloved husband returned to Chicago, Illinois, where they settled near her family home on 69th and Vernon, a sanctuary of warmth and hospitality, where the doors were always open, the aroma of home-cooked meals filled the air, and the sounds of blues music-Johnny Taylor, B.B. King, Etta James, and Bobby Bland-created a backdrop for countless cherished memories; and

WHEREAS, Annie Pearl Howard’s legacy is defined by her role as a matriarch, not only to her own children and grandchildren, but to an entire community finding solace in her nurturing spirit, wisdom-filled counsel, and unwavering presence; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Howard’s heart knew no limits-she cared deeply, loved fully, and gave selflessly,

whether through a comforting meal, a listening ear, or the firm yet gentle guidance to shape generations; and

WHEREAS, the foundation of Mrs. Howard's faith and wisdom continued to resonate in the lives of her descendants, instilling in them a profound sense of heritage, dignity, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Howard was preceded in death by her husband, Roosevelt Howard; her cherished son, Johnny Howard; and her beloved grandchildren, Vishon and Ashley; yet her legacy endures through the countless lives she influenced and uplifted; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Howard leaves behind a loving and devoted family, including her brother, Pretic Buchanan, Jr.; her beloved children, Gwendolyn Annette, Yvette, Randy, and Della M. Cyrus; her 18 adoring grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, along with nieces, nephews, extended family, and an entire community enriched by her wisdom, grace, and unwavering love; and

WHEREAS, though Mrs. Howard departed from this world, her presence remains in the laughter of her grandchildren, the unity of family gatherings, the songs that filled her home, and the enduring love that she so generously poured into the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE 3rd DISTRICT, AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER, that we, with full hearts and profound gratitude, honor the life, love, and legacy of Annie Pearl Howard, a woman of unshakable faith, immeasurable strength, and boundless love; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution serves as an enduring tribute to her remarkable life, ensuring that her name, her spirit, and her impact will be forever etched in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the family of Annie Pearl Howard as a token of our deepest esteem, admiration, and gratitude of the **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District.**

[25-2225](#)

Sponsored by: MICHAEL SCOTT JR., Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE CHICAGO AUTISM NETWORK DURING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interaction, with millions of individuals and families impacted across the country and within Cook County; and

WHEREAS, April is recognized globally as Autism Awareness Month, and April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, both of which promote greater understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Autism Network is a nonprofit organization based in Cook County, dedicated to ensuring that all individuals on the autism spectrum-especially those from underserved communities-have access to life-changing therapy and resources; and

WHEREAS, since receiving nonprofit status in 2018, the Chicago Autism Network has made significant contributions to families affected by autism through programs such as their monthly free caregiver workshops, a robust online resource hub, and their flagship Therapy Assistance Grant Program, which has distributed over \$370,000 to support autism therapy, evaluations, and related services; and

WHEREAS, the organization's work prioritizes equity and access, with the majority of grant recipients coming from low-income households and communities of color in Chicago's South and West Sides; and

WHEREAS, through its annual Autism & Developmental Differences Expo, partnerships with local organizations, and public education initiatives, the Chicago Autism Network has reached thousands of families, helping them navigate autism care with dignity, compassion, and support; and

WHEREAS, the organization's efforts directly align with Cook County's commitment to advancing health equity, supporting families, and empowering underserved populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month and commend the Chicago Autism Network for its unwavering dedication to improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families across Cook County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Chicago Autism Network in honor of their outstanding service and advocacy.

25-2300

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**ACKNOWLEDGING APRIL AS SECOND CHANCE MONTH**

WHEREAS, beginning in 2017, research institutions, community organizations, local and federal government agencies have recognized April as Second Chance Month; and

WHEREAS, Second Chance Month is a time to raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals returning home from incarceration and promote second chances for these members of our community who have paid their debt to society; and

WHEREAS, the United States has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world where, despite being less than 5% of the world's population, the U.S. accounts for approximately 20% of the world's prison population; and

WHEREAS, according to the Prison Policy Institute, nearly 2 million people are incarcerated in federal, state and local prisons and jails across the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately 53,000 Illinois residents are incarcerated in prison or jail; and

WHEREAS, stark racial disparities persist in our criminal legal system with Black Americans imprisoned at five times the rate of white Americans; and

WHEREAS, almost 5 million residents in the United States were formally incarcerated in state or federal prisons and at least 79 million people have a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, formally incarcerated individuals face legal and social barriers to attaining employment and fair housing; they experience higher rates of housing and food insecurity, mental, behavioral and physical health issues; and

WHEREAS, the time individuals are returning home from jail or prison, often referred to as the reentry period, is a critical time where both risk factors and protective factors impact outcomes for returning residents who can benefit from support as they navigate the challenges associated with reentry; and

WHEREAS, access to services including employment support, housing, health services and legal aid can

contribute to successful reentry and effectively reduce rates of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, policies and investments that support individuals in the reentry period can help improve outcomes for individuals, their communities, and help address the impacts of mass incarceration that disproportionately affect Black and Brown communities; and

WHEREAS, people who were formally incarcerated play a critical role in their families and communities and possess insight that allows them to become leaders and change-makers who help break cycles of incarceration for others and build safer, more resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC), under the auspices of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, leads Cook County's reentry policy development and programming including Cook County Reconnect, which provides rental assistance and services to individuals returning from incarceration to Cook County communities; and

WHEREAS, the JAC and the Bureau of Economic Development support the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership's reentry program, the Road Home, which provides comprehensive reentry support beginning pre-release, focusing on addressing barriers to employment for returning residents; and

WHEREAS, Cook County remembers the late Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer, who was a steadfast advocate for second chances and providing reentry services and who, alongside Congressman Danny K. Davis, helped champion the passage of the federal Second Chance Act in 2007; and

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, does hereby take this opportunity to acknowledge Second Chance Month, observed throughout April 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cook County Board of Commissioners and County Government will join partners in 1) promoting awareness of discrimination and legal barriers faced by returning residents and those with criminal records, and 2) striving towards eliminating barriers to successful reentry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be shared during the official proceedings of this Honorable Body in recognition of Second Chance Month.

[25-1820](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL AS LITTLE PALESTINE DAY IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, April is National Arab American Heritage Month, which celebrates the history, culture, and people and the many contributions Arab Americans have made to our country; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Arab families who migrated to southwest Cook County in the early 20th century, seeking a better life and the opportunity to build a supportive community; these families have contributed to the rich cultural landscape of Little Palestine, transforming it into a beacon of hope and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Little Palestine, located in the southwest region of Cook County, is home to the largest Palestinian community in the nation and the 4th largest Arab American population in the country, spanning a five-mile stretch from 79th and Harlem Avenue in Bridgeview to Harlem Avenue and College Drive in Palos Heights; and

WHEREAS, Little Palestine features over 200 Arab-owned businesses and community-serving institutions, including a community college, a hospital, three high schools, and over 20 organizations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, historic disinvestment in the Arab American community, coupled with being targeted for discrimination and hate crimes, threatens the sustainability and growth of this area, with over 70% of Arab-owned businesses in Little Palestine having under 10 employees and driving the economy in this region; and

WHEREAS, there has historically been no means to distinguish Arab American populations, economic activity, health, or any other indicators of Arab Americans on data registers at local, state, or national levels, recent efforts to include Arab Americans in data counts, achieved through decades of mobilization within Arab American communities, remain limited and often specific to certain locales. These omissions hinder the ability to document critical issues such as displacement and the impacts of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Arab American Business and Professional Association, along with a coalition of organizations, is advocating for the official recognition of Little Palestine Day on the 7th day of April each calendar year, to help build cultural awareness, increase tourism, and boost economic vitality in this region; and

WHEREAS, the heart and soul of this community lie in its people, individuals who embody ambitions, creativity, and aspirations that surpass the ordinary; their contributions continue to reshape the narrative of

the area, making it a testament to hope, resilience, and cultural pride;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in conjunction with Arab American Heritage month, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners proudly proclaim April 7th as Little Palestine Day in Cook County and that each year it shall serve as a celebration of the community's rich heritage, promote solidarity among residents, and encourage support for local businesses and cultural initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to relevant local officials, community organizations, and media outlets to raise awareness and foster a greater understanding of the significance of Little Palestine within the broader context of cultural diversity in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a formal event be organized annually on the 7th day of April to commemorate Little Palestine Day, showcasing the cultural contributions of the Arab American community and fostering engagement with the wider community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local schools and educational institutions be encouraged to incorporate lessons about the history and contributions of the Arab American community into their curricula, promoting inclusivity and understanding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding and resources be sought to support initiatives aimed at revitalizing the economic landscape of Little Palestine, ensuring sustainable growth and development for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that his text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to Rush Darwish, President of the Arab American Business and Professional Association as a symbol of our respect and esteem.