



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

Cook County Building, Board Room 118 N. Clark Chicago Illinois

Consent Agenda

Thursday, July 29, 2021, 10:00 AM

Second Set

[21-4338](#)

Sponsored by: PETER N. SILVESTRI, BRANDON JOHNSON, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING BARNARD'S SCHWINN FOR ITS 110 YEARS OF BUSINESS

WHEREAS, Barnard's Schwinn, located at 6109 W. North Avenue, is the oldest family-owned business in Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1911, Robert Barnard opened the store, originally located at 1148 Lake Street, and sold a variety of items in addition to bicycles; and

WHEREAS, after Barnard passed away, his two sons took over the shop and recruited their nephews when they were sophomores in high school; and

WHEREAS, today, Barnard's is owned by Robert Barnard's great-nephews, Jeff and Greg Hajduk, who live in Elmwood Park and run the store together with long-time employee Ed Blaszczyk; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960's, Barnard's switched to strictly selling bicycles and over the years has established itself for expert bicycle repair and restoration; and

WHEREAS, Barnard's Schwinn contains new bikes along with vintage classics and is also known for its huge selection of locks and safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, Barnard's Schwinn features a variety of brands besides Schwinn, but the store is particularly known for restoring vintage Schwinn bikes, especially the Schwinn Stingray; and

WHEREAS, Barnard's Schwinn believes in old-fashioned word-of-mouth instead of selling via the Internet. The clientele comes from generations of clients and from all over the country; and

WHEREAS, with bike lanes and bike sharing giving bicycle riding another boost in popularity, Barnard's Schwinn is primed to serve the community with quality bicycles and bike repair and restoration services; and

WHEREAS, for years to come, Barnard's Schwinn hopes to fulfill its mission: *to help you select the correct bicycle for your cycling needs-so that you can enjoy your life.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor Barnard's Schwinn for its 110 years in business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be tendered to owners Jeff and Greg Hajduk as a token of our appreciation for their contributions to the Oak Park community and beyond.

[21-4387](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and ALMA E. ANAYA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CAMERINO GONZÁLEZ VALLE

WHEREAS, Camerino González Valle was born on August 21, 1939 in Jalisco Mexico; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 12, Camerino moved from his hometown of Jalisco to Mexico City, where his grandfather taught him how to make and sell one of the most popular culinary arts of Mexican gastronomy: tacos; and

WHEREAS, when the United States and Mexican governments created diplomatic labor agreements that allowed Mexican men to come to the United States and work short-term, known as the Bracero Program, Camerino crossed the border and lived in California picking oranges; and

WHEREAS, Camerino left the agricultural labor to work in the trucking industry, a route that eventually landed him in the Windy City; and

WHEREAS, Camerino took a job in the meatpacking industry, where he learned the cuts and qualities of meat; and

WHEREAS, combining his knowledge of tacos, the meatpacking industry, and seeing the need to provide a meal that would remind the growing Mexican immigrant community a taste of home, Camerino founded Los Comales in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Los Comales would expand throughout Cook County and beyond, including Milwaukee, Wisconsin and San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Camerino knew many members of the community were immigrants who worked long labor hours and, during the holidays, where often alone, reminiscing of their native home. Camerino extended his business hours and would have his restaurants open during the holidays; and

WHEREAS, Camerino had a heart of gold. If he heard of a person who was struggling and in need he would offer a helping hand; and

WHEREAS, Camerino passed away on June 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Camerino is survived by his wife Patricia, son Lawrence, daughter Christina, stepsons Nicholas Acevedo, Richard Acevedo, Fernando Franco, Jose Franco and Miguel Franco, and extended family; and

WHEREAS, Camerino is also mourned by many of the Little Village and Latino community. His immigrant journey and American Dream is a legacy that will carry on; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of Camerino González Valle and honor the life and memory of this outstanding Cook County resident.

[21-4393](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MATTHEW B. DeLEON

WHEREAS, Matthew (Matt) B. DeLeon will be retiring as Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Forest Preserve of Cook County Board of Commissioners on July 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Matt will leave Cook County after an almost 31-year career in local government, nearly three years with the City of Chicago and 28 of those years with Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Matt's family history reflects much of the Asian American experience of the 20th century. His parents were each part of two different waves of Filipino immigration that were essential to the Asian American experience. Twenty-four years apart in age, they would meet through their active participation in Filipino American community organizations in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Matt was born at Evanston Hospital, June 27, 1969. The family would settle on the southwest side of Evanston near James Park. Matt was baptized at St. Nicholas Church in Evanston and would attend Dawes School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Laboratory School and Evanston Township High School, graduating in 1987. Matt would graduate from American University in Washington, DC in 1991 and DePaul University College of Law in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Matt would first participate in local politics volunteering for the Harold Washington campaign for Chicago Mayor in 1983. That summer, Matt would take the "L" from Evanston to attend Chicago City Council meetings during the contentious "Council Wars" times; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Matt would volunteer at The Democratic Party of Evanston headquarters, going door to door and serving as a poll watcher for the Paul Simon for U.S. Senate campaign. Matt would participate in the YMCA Youth and Government program, become the Youth Mayor of Evanston in 1985 and Youth Governor of Illinois two years later; and

WHEREAS, Matt's first opportunity to work in government service came as a United States Congressional Page the summer before his junior year of high school. His sponsor was Congressman Sidney R. Yates; and

WHEREAS, Summers during college would see additional opportunities to work in government, serving as an intern for an Illinois State Representative-and future Cook County Chief Financial Officer-Woods Bowman. The following summer, he drew Census tract maps for the Illinois House and interned for the City of Chicago Commission on Asian American Affairs and its Executive Director Rudy Urian, now Chief of Staff for Commissioner Luis Arroyo, Jr. During those summers, Matt would attend meetings of the Filipino American Political Association and the Filipino American Democratic Organization of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, From 1991 to 1993, Matt's first full time job was with Mayor Richard M. Daley's Office in the Mayor's Correspondence Unit. This experience included being in City Hall on the day of the infamous downtown flood in 1992; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Matt was offered a position in the Bureau of Administration under Chief Administrative Officer Albert Pritchett. As an Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer, Matt became familiar with the County's Economic and Community Development efforts, Employment and Training Programs and the changes to the unincorporated areas through Zoning Board and Building departments; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, after 13 years of service to Presidents Richard J. Phelan, John H. Stroger, Jr. and Bobbie L. Steele, Matt was appointed to the position of Secretary to the Board by President Todd H. Stroger. With the advent of the Health and Hospitals System Board in 2008, Matt became the first Secretary of that Board; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Matt began service under his fifth County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle. And whereby In 2011, President Preckwinkle designated Matt to serve as Secretary to the Forest Preserve Board, becoming the first to serve in both roles simultaneously for the two governments; and

WHEREAS, Here are some firsts which, with the support of the President and the Board, were enacted by Matt during his tenure as Secretary:

- First livestream of all County of Forest Preserve Board proceedings
- First video recordings of all County and Forest Preserve committee meetings

- First electronic registration of public speakers and comments
- First comprehensive board-committee legislative management system linking Board items to committee items and the first unique item numbering system
- First electronic, interactive notices posted on a touchscreen
- First to make all Meeting Records paperless and electronic
- First to be selected Cook County Historian by the Board of Commissioners
- Established County Historic Archives and Records Office
- Co-authored first ever County Historic Archives and Records Ordinance

WHEREAS, Matt leaves Cook County Government at the relatively young age of 52, this resolution catalogues Matt's many professional achievements, leaving him more time to concentrate on the promotion and preservation of Cook County History as the County Historian; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby honor and recognize Matthew DeLeon for their contribution to the viability of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Matthew DeLeon as a means of communicating our appreciation.

[21-4395](#)

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI and DEBORAH SIMS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING ADAM NEWMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS TRANSITION TO THE OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, Adam Newman joined the office of Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin as Chief of Staff in February 2019. He brought to the office the skills, organization, problem-solving ability, and determination that he developed on his path to becoming an Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, during the intervening two and one-half years, Adam has capably led the staff through

challenging times, including preparing for and coordinating the work of the office in March 2020 as staff began working remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic and then, in July 2021 as the office transitioned back to staffing in-office. He developed good working relationships with his co-workers in the office and in offices throughout Cook County. Those relationships fostered his ability to quickly solve constituent problems and ensure that the legislative work of the district stayed on track; and

WHEREAS, one of Adam's unique skills was his ability to work with large data sets. He skillfully adapted data from the Cook County Assessor's office to create a manipulatable spreadsheet that allowed all of the Commissioner's staff to easily find comparable properties as part of the assessment appeals processes. He was also able to extract district-specific information from the Medical Examiner's office data for Commissioner Suffredin to give recognition to people in the district lost to Covid; and

WHEREAS, Adam has accepted a position in the communications division in the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney and will begin that work on August 3, 2021. He will be missed by his co-workers who wish him the best in his new assignment and look forward to hearing of his future successes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, congratulates Adam Newman on his transition to the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney, and herewith expresses its appreciation for the contributions he made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois and particularly to the residents of the 13th District; 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 same be tendered to Adam Newman.

[21-4400](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON SR. ON BEING AWARDED LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR, FRANCE'S HIGHEST HONOR

WHEREAS, Jesse Louis Jackson Sr. was born on October 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson began his theological studies at Chicago Theological Seminary, but deferred his studies when he began working full-time in the Civil Rights Movement with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Later, he was ordained on June 30, 1968, by Reverend Clay Evans and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson, one of America's foremost civil rights, religious and political figures, is the Founder and President of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and has been a champion of human and civil rights and nonviolent social change for decades, and a leading advocate for a variety of public policy issues, including universal health care, equal administration of justice in all communities, voting rights,

sufficient funding for enforcement of civil rights laws, and for increased attention to business investment in under-served domestic communities among many other just causes; and

WHEREAS, over the past forty years, he has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson has received more than 40 honorary doctorate degrees and frequently lectures at major colleges and universities including Howard, Yale, Princeton, Morehouse, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and Hampton; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Reverend Jackson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor, and just recently France bestowed upon Reverend Jackson it's highest honor; and

WHEREAS, on Monday July 19th, 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron made Jesse Jackson a Commander of the Legion of Honor (La Légion d'Honneur), the highest French order of merit, both military and civil, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, for helping "change the destiny of the United States" and with it, the world"; and

WHEREAS, "From your earliest years, you were hungry for knowledge and justice, and you are a special friend of France, a brother for us," Macron said in a solemn address at the Élysée Presidential Palace, adding, "He's a visionary with talent for uniting and leading people, whose moral and physical courage has helped him to overcome adversity and change the destiny of the United States, our oldest ally, and to change our world for the better"; and

WHEREAS, as a highly respected and trusted world leader, Reverend Jackson has acted many times as an international diplomat in sensitive situations; and

WHEREAS, President Macron recounted Jackson's 1990 role in freeing French hostages during the first Gulf War. Citizens from several countries trying to stop the invasion of Kuwait were taken hostage by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. President Macron said Jackson negotiated the release of French citizens and thanks to his efforts, they were safely returned to their families; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, during his five-day visit to the French Caribbean archipelago of Guadeloupe, Reverend Jesse Jackson toured the "MEMORIAL ACTe," the world's largest museum dedicated to the Memory and History of Slavery from the early seventeenth century to present day and part of UNESCO's Slave Route Project, a global initiative to promote the rapprochement of peoples through the shared legacy of this tragedy; and

WHEREAS, at the time Reverend Jackson remarked to the crowd, “This is the most phenomenal museum of its kind in the whole world. I have been to museums in numerous cities across the world, we are now building a significant one in Washington DC, but this is the most complete museum of ours in the world and this is not the last one. It is the signal we need more museums to tell us about our story”, adding, “I am a member of your family, I am not a foreigner, I am home...it’s good to be home”; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson’s rejection of all forms of racism and exclusion, and emphasizing citizenship and the hope of progress, has inspired several generations of activists and public leaders throughout the world, and the values promoted by Reverend Jackson are universal and reflect those of the French Republic; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this prestigious honor, one of many over his remarkable career, this Honorable Body wishes to honor the Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr.;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. on being named a Commander of the Legion of Honor (La Légion d’Honneur); 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 Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. and family as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[21-4401](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SALUTES MARIE JOSEE SAINT PREUX AS A LIFELONG GOOD AND FAITHFUL COMMUNITY SERVANT

WHEREAS, in 1959, Marie Josee Saint Preux was born in Cap-Haiti and began her community lifelong service until her departure on June 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Marie Josee’s education began in Chicago’s elementary schools and high school, and she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Lewis University, where it was utilized to form a successful business (NAS Electronics) along with her brother, John; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 1981, Marie Josee was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Lambda Psi Chapter, and had consistently been an active member. She later joined Xi Nu Omega Chapter and served as Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary as well as on several other committees; and

WHEREAS, Marie Josee's heart of gold glimmered and touched all as she worked tirelessly with organizations such as the Midwest Association of Haitian Women, DuSable Heritage Association, Haitian Catholic Mission, a faithful member of St. Barnabas Church, a dedicated Lewis University board member and to the Haitian community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to honor the legacy of Marie Josee Saint-Preux, a great woman who unselfishly assisted many in our Cook County of Illinois until her departure on June 18, 2021; --- WELL DONE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL COMMUNITY SERVANT - SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND TAKE THY REST;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby offer its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and loved ones of Marie Josee Saint-Preux; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and a suitable copy be presented to the family of Marie Josee Saint Preux so that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[21-4414](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING PASTOR JONATHAN BROOKS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, AND DEDICATION TO THE ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY

WHEREAS; Jonathan Brooks, is a lifelong resident of Chicago, IL. currently serving as Senior Pastor of Canaan Community Church in the West Englewood neighborhood, and Director of the Accelerated Pastoral Degree Program at Northern Seminary, in cooperation with Trinity Christian College; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Brooks, has a Bachelor of Architecture from Tuskegee University, Master of Arts in Teaching from National Louis University and Master of Divinity from Northern Seminary with an emphasis in Christian Community Development. He continues to merge his academic knowledge, practical tools, variety of gifts and ministry training in order to turn his convictions for transformation into tangible solutions, and strives to help change neglected neighborhoods for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Brooks, Jonathan and his wife, Micheal, have two children, Jasmine and Jade, and currently reside in West Englewood steps away from the church campus.

WHEREAS; Jonathan Brooks, serves as adjunct faculty for Chicago Semester, an off-campus program that provides students the opportunity to live, learn, and work in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Brooks, served as the Chicago City Director for Mission Year, a one-year

service-learning program for young people ages 18-30 and before that he taught elementary education in inner city Chicago for over a decade. As a firm believer in investing in your local community, Jonathan has a deep desire to impress this virtue on the students and young people in his congregation, classroom and community; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Brooks, through various community partnerships, Canaan Community Church provides youth development, holistic health options, college scholarships, art and music training and continual support to the incarcerated and their families living in Englewood and other Chicago communities; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Brooks affectionately, “Pastah J,” as he is called, is a sought after speaker, writer and artist. He has contributed to numerous blogs, articles and books and recently released his first book titled “Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods;” and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Brooks is also an accomplished visual and musical artist. Along with his visual art featured in his book he also performs a variety of musical genres. He is featured on Canaan’s debut gospel album called "Recommend Jesus" which was released in 2015 to be used as an avenue to share faith as an integral component in community transformation. “Pastah J,” has also recorded four hip-hop albums with the group Out-World and in 2020 recently curated a hip-hop music project to accompany his new book; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner 2nd District on behalf of President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the over five million residents of Cook County, on this date July 29th, 2021 do hereby recognized **Pastor Jonathan Brooks** for his Outstanding Leadership in Englewood Community and so wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to **Jonathan Brooks**, and a copy is spread upon the official proceedings of this au pious Honorable Body

[21-4416](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING MR. WALKER HARRIS JR. FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN THE WEST GARFIELD COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr. at a very young age, aspired to be a businessman, and was given the framework during his high school years while working after school and on weekends for an African American businessman; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr. after high school, while taking an extended vacation in Chicago with his sister and her husband, saw and took advantage of an opportunity to make his dream a reality; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr. at the age of eighteen became employed at the City Ice Company, as a bagger., and quickly learned the ice business and its distribution process; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr, learned that one of the drivers was retiring and looking to sell his route, Mr. Harris purchased the drivers list of customers and started his own company; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr.; Ice Company officially started on March 15, 1972. Soon, after learning that City Ice was in the process of closing the distribution warehouse, he purchased the warehouse in the fall of 1973; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr; began to soliciting new business and hired two drivers. By the end of 1978, Mr. Harris had five refrigerated trucks and continued to update his plant, so he could manufacture large quantities of ice on the premises to meet the demands of his customers. Additional storage rooms and a garage for parking were added. And in 1981 an office building was constructed and an annexed to the old warehouse building; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr; Ice Company, provides services to wholesale, retail, and commercial businesses, including movie and television industry. His company manufactures and distributes cube, block, crushed and snow cone ice; and

WHEREAS, Walker Harris Jr; is certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) with the City of Chicago, Cook County, the Illinois Department of Central Management and the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council. Despite his demanding schedule as an entrepreneur, Mr. Harris is deeply committed to serving his church, and his community. "Through God's Grace, hard work, and determination with unwavering support of his family and friends, he became the businessman that he is today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer of 2nd District on behalf of President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the over five million residents of Cook County, on this 29th day of July do hereby recognize Walker Harris Jr. for his Outstanding Commitment and Leadership in the West Garfield Community, and so wish Walker Harris Jr. every continued success in his future endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Walker Harris Jr. and a copy is spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body

[21-4417](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARATION OF RUDY LOZANO DAY IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Rodolfo “Rudy” Lozano was born in Harlingen, Texas on July 17, 1951. He was one of six children born to Guadalupe and Anita Lozano; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano and his family moved to Chicago in the early 1950’s, and he spent his formative years in the Pilsen neighborhood on the near Southwest Side; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano developed a sense of activism at an early age and as a child walked strike picket lines with his siblings alongside their metalworker and staunch union activist father; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano’s life was characterized by his passion for community activism and his unwavering dedication to humanity and the betterment of all working-class people; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano’s mission was to empower all workers and uplift the voices of immigrants and to organize the unorganized, and to strategically forge coalitions among Latino, Black, white progressive allies, and other historically underrepresented community groups; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Rudy Lozano helped organize Black and Latino students at Carter Henry Harrison Technical High School (now Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy) to stage a series of walkouts protesting the lack of representation in the curriculum and of bilingual education as well as substandard facilities-Harrison, located in South Lawndale, also served Pilsen and was overcrowded; and

WHEREAS, approximately 35,000 Chicago Public School (CPS) students were inspired by the Harrison action to walk out and within a decade, as a result of both the walkouts and continuing community pressure, the Board of Education built a new high school to serve Pilsen, Benito Juarez Community Academy; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano was among the first wave of Mexican American students at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and led struggles for student diversity and multicultural curriculum leading to the establishment of the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES); and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano married Guadalupe “Lupe” Lozano on December 8, 1973 and became the loving father of three sons: Rodolfo Lozano Jr., Jose Alberto Lozano, and David Emiliano Lozano; and

WHEREAS, after attending UIC, Rudy Lozano became an integral part of the *Centro de Acción Social Autónoma - Hermandad General de Trabajadores* (Center for Autonomous Social Action - General Brotherhood of Workers) or CASA and focused on advocating for immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, CASA worked to unionize noncitizen workers and provided them with social services and information to better know their civil rights as workers; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano became the Midwest Director of the International Ladies Garment Workers

Union, in which he helped union members organize their grievances so the union, and especially their employers, would finally address their poor working conditions and other labor related concerns; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano directed his attention to the largest tortilla factory in the midwest, where immigrant laborers worked and lived in dangerous conditions, and where the company tried to hinder the unionization campaign by calling Immigration and Naturalization Services on their workers; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano began his electoral organizing in Chicago's 25th Ward IPO near west side, where he registered Latino voters and prioritized creating unity between Latino, Black and White community members; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano ran for Alderman of the 22nd Ward in a highly contested and controversial race in 1983. Although he was 17 votes short of forcing the runoff in his race, he played a key role building a strategic coalition between the Latino, Black and White communities that resulted in electing candidates in districts where together they shared a majority vote; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano was instrumental in forging a winning multi-racial coalition that resulted in the historic election of Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington, and organizing the Mexican American community to support Washington thereafter. After Mayor Harold Washington's win, Rudy Lozano was elevated to a trusted adviser; and

WHEREAS, out of this work Rudy Lozano, Lupe Lozano, Jesus "Chuy" Garcia and others established the 22nd Ward independent political organization (IPO) in the Little Village community, which still remains a key progressive force in the region; and

WHEREAS, that grassroots and progressive movement was recognized internationally and inspired many to fight for political independence and to run for office in their community; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano's life was cut short when he was assassinated on June 8, 1983 at his home at the age of 31; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano's murder stunned the whole city. Thousands of mourners attended Rudy Lozano's funeral, including the new mayor Washington, who stated, "If the coalition of Chicago which came with my election is due to anyone, it is due to Rudy Lozano" and people like him; and

WHEREAS, although the devastation of losing Rudy Lozano left a tremendous void in the Southwest Side communities, it inevitably charged and politically activated the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano's activism, dedication, vision for unity among people, and his life's work made his legacy well known throughout the city and had a ripple effect that transcended generations; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano's vision survives to this day carried by peers, fellow allies of the movement, and devoted family members, including his widow, children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, and nephews;

and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 1989, the Chicago Public Library system opened the Rudy Lozano Library in the Pilsen neighborhood in his honor; and

WHEREAS, on 1994, Rodolfo Lozano Bilingual & International Center Elementary School was opened in the north side of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, we must never forget that Rudy Lozano was and continues to be one of our most valuable local labor and community leaders and human rights activist of all time; and

WHEREAS, during the past year and a half, Rudy Lozano's teachings have never been more important-the push for unity among Black, Brown, White and all who stand for love and compassion for each other, the protection and advocacy for immigrant families, and the fight for social justice, racial equity and political power for disinvested communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano's life has left a profound lesson for us all to continue building solidarity among all working-class people in the name of peace and justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor the life and legacy of Rudy Lozano, in what would have been his 70th birthday, and hereby declare today, July 29, 2021, Rudy Lozano Day in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the family and friends of Rudy Lozano so that his memory may be honored and ever cherished.