



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Thursday, November 4, 2021, 10:00 AM

Second Set

[21-6170](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING KAREN WALKER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF COOK COUNTY ON THE INDEPENDENT REVENUE FORECASTING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Karen Walker has served as a Commissioner on the Independent Revenue Forecasting Commission since it 2018; and

WHEREAS, Karen has more than 30 years of professional experience which includes finance, consulting, investment banking and accounting. She began her career as a Certified Public Accountant with her experience including audit, tax, mergers and acquisitions, and regulatory compliance; and,

WHEREAS, she worked for Ernst & Whinney, Beatrice Company, Mueller Holdings and the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. Karen specialized in public finance investment banking, where she helped finance more than \$50 billion in capital projects. She worked as a banker with Merrill Lynch, Banc of America Securities and regional investment banks; and,

WHEREAS, she served as Director of Financial Services for the Illinois Finance Authority and Chief Financial Officer for the Chicago Transit Authority (“CTA”), in recognition of her work with the CTA, Karen received an award for Outstanding Public Service from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; and,

WHEREAS, most recently, she worked as Vice President for Finance & Operations for the Catholic Theological Union and currently serves as Vice President for Finance & Administration for the Chicago Theological Seminary.

WHEREAS, in 2020, Karen created Fertile Soil Financial L.L.C., a business and financial consulting firm and serves on the Chicago Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation Board of Directors, the Seaway Bank Auxiliary Board and the Cook County Independent Revenue Commission, and is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and former board member; and,

WHEREAS, Karen earned an MBA in Finance from the Anderson School at the University of California Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board President, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize Karen Walker for all that she has contributed to Cook County’s more than 5 million residents during her service to the County and wish her well in future endeavors and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to Karen Walker.

[21-5927](#)

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

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE DEBRA SHORE ON HER APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, EPA REGION 5

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2021 President Joseph R. Biden named Chicago water executive Debra Shore to head the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Chicago-based Midwest office. In his appointment statement, EPA Administrator Michael Regan noted, "Debra's knowledge and experience on water infrastructure issues, the impacts of climate change, and the protection of the Great Lakes will help her lead Region 5;" and

WHEREAS, in supporting her appointment, Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, said Shore's "commitment to correcting decades-long environmental injustices" made her "uniquely suited to serve the Midwest and take on this leadership role in protecting our natural resources for years to come;" and

WHEREAS, EPA's Region 5 covers Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, along with land held by 35 indigenous tribes. The office oversees efforts to clean up the Great Lakes and deals with matters including industrial and agricultural pollution and tainted drinking water. Shore is committed to environmental justice and promised to build morale among employees who felt inhibited from doing their jobs under the former president; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chicago, Debra grew up in Dallas. She graduated from Goucher College in 1974 with a degree in philosophy and visual arts and a membership in Phi Beta Kappa. She earned masters' degrees from Johns Hopkins University and Chicago's Columbia College. She lives with her spouse, Kathleen Gillespie, in Skokie, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Debra began her career as an investigator for the Better Government Association, one of the first to hold that position. She became an active volunteer in local conservation initiatives, especially helping to restore the forest preserves along the North Branch of the Chicago River. She was the founding editor of *Chicago Wilderness Magazine* in 1997, a quarterly publication devoted to the rare nature of the Chicago region. In 1996, she helped found Friends of the Forest Preserves and began volunteering on political campaigns, helping elect more progressive members to the Cook County Board of

Commissioners. In 2003, she was selected to participate in the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL), which recruits and grooms Democratic women to run for office; and

WHEREAS, Debra was first elected to serve as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) in 2006. With her election, she became the first openly gay nonjudicial candidate to be elected countywide in Cook County. She was re-elected in 2012 and 2018. In the 2012 election, she drew more than one million votes in the general election. (Only Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin and Commissioner Shore have earned more than one million votes as openly lesbian candidates.) The MWRD handles wastewater treatment and stormwater management for more than 5 million residents; and

WHEREAS, Debra has been a strong advocate for cleaning up the Chicago waterways and for resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of biogas. In recognition of her work, she received the Public Official of the Year Award from the Water Environment Federation in 2013. Illinois Democrats credit Shore with turning the MWRD from a sleepy agency into an environmental force; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her Cook County elected position, Debra currently chairs the board of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute, a national organization with a mission of achieving full equality for LGBT people by building, supporting, and advancing a diverse network of LGBT public leaders. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2008 and 2012. She also serves on the boards of IWIL, the Great Lakes Protection Fund, and Congregation Sukkat Shalom; and

WHEREAS, following her appointment, Shore said that she anticipates implementing Biden and Regan's "bold plans to address climate change, to restore the agency's foundational commitment to environmental justice, and to ensure that decisions are made based on sound science and the law."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, congratulates Debra Shore on her appointment as Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, recognizing her many accomplishments on which the appointment is based, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions she has made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the Honorable Debra Shore.

[21-6207](#)

Sponsored by: BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH DOROTHY GATERS FOR FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

WHEREAS, for forty-five years Dorothy Gaters, a graduate of Marshall High School, has served as the coach of the Marshall High School girls' basketball team; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters is the winningest high school basketball coach in Illinois history, Coach Gaters has more than 1,100 wins, 10 girls state titles and 24 state trophies; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters has been inducted into the National Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee, class of 2000; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters was named coach of the year by the Illinois Basketball Association more than a dozen times; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters' coaching style has developed some of our nation's top student athletes including Cappie Pondexter, Janet Harris, and Toni Foster; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters has coached 5 players that went on to play WNBA, more than 20 that have gone on to play professionally overseas, and 18 All American players; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters started the MLK Dream Classic in 2001, which brings together more than 40 girls' and boys' basketball teams from across the country, to honor legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through a basketball shootout tournament; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters had a pair of Nike shoes made in her honor; and,

WHEREAS, Coach Gaters has trail blazed in her field, and has exceedingly excelled in her career as a high school basketball coach, Department Chairperson, Physical Education Teacher, Athletic Director, and Public League Basketball Coaches Association President; and,

WHEREAS, because of Coach Gaters' leadership, work ethic, and undying commitment to her players and students, Coach Gaters has been and continues to be a phenomenal role model and an outstanding mentor for young women, and young people in general, throughout Cook County and beyond; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners congratulate Coach Dorothy Gaters on her retirement and recognize her exemplary

accomplishments and express to her sincerest thanks and appreciation for her many contributions to her community, to Cook County, and to the lives of young people in the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a ceremonial copy of this resolution be tendered to Coach Dorothy Gaters, as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the President of the Cook County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

[21-6212](#)

Sponsored by: LUIS ARROYO JR, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, 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

CONGRATULATING SCHORSCH VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Schorsch Village Improvement Association is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the Schorsch Village Improvement Association is dedicated to serving an ethnically diverse community, located on the northwest side of Chicago, between Addison and Belmont, and Harlem and Narragansett, and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 1931, the Schorsch Village Improvement Association held the first meeting of an association of neighbors of 70 homeowners for the purposes of organizing an improvement and social group for their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Association has met this mission by holding holiday celebrations, picnics, cook-outs, golf outings and dances. Schorsch Village also has helped enforce local laws, including building and fire ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Schorsch Village Improvement Association received a Charter of Incorporation on May 29, 1939, to incorporate for the above purposes; and

WHEREAS, in following their motto, “in unity there is strength” the Association continues to be a unifying force in the neighborhood, holding numerous social events and always welcoming new members of the Schorsch neighborhood. The Village also has an active Men’s Club and a social group for Senior Citizens.

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

Commissioners do hereby congratulate the residents of Schorsch Village on the 90th Anniversary of the Schorsch Village Improvement Association, and we offer our appreciation to them for 90 years of commitment and service to Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Schorsch Village Improvement Association in celebration of this joyous occasion.

[21-6213](#)

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 THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARJORIE RUTH FUJARA

WHEREAS, Marjorie Ruth Fujara, MD, FAAP passed peacefully from life alongside family at Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Illinois on October 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of St Juliana's and Resurrection High School in Chicago, she received her BA from the University of Illinois in Champaign, her MD from University of Illinois in Chicago in 1992, and completed her Pediatric residency at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie became board certified in both Pediatric and Child Abuse Pediatrics and was assigned to the Division of Child and Family Wellness at Cook County Health. As part of the pediatric unit, she began to specialize in child-abuse cases. She became a passionate, compassionate, and tireless advocate for children and was recognized with many awards and accolades for her work with victims of child abuse and family violence. But she also recognized and advocated for helping the families who were caught up in the system, from problems of poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to appropriate resources. She was a role model for many on how to advocate for children and families; and

WHEREAS, she served as acting Director of the Division of Child and Family Wellness for a period of time and was the Medical Director for Chicago Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) from October 2001 to October 2020. CAC is a unique collaboration that brings child protection, law enforcement, and healing services together to respond to, treat, and ultimately prevent child abuse; and

WHEREAS, she also served as the Project Director of Project CHILD, US DOJ's Child Safety Forward from October 2019 until her death. As project director, she managed a three-year \$750,000 grant from the Department of Justice to reduce child fatalities and recurring injuries from abuse and neglect in Cook, Peoria, and Vermillion Counties in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie was an activist at heart and considered activism a part of her responsibility as a

medical doctor. She would reach out to local elected officials to help to address issues of concern, like the rollback of the sales tax and how it would impact the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS); the lack of speech services for children and adults at CCHHS; and long pharmacy lines at the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie described herself as a trauma-ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) informed urban pediatrician, privileged to care for refugees and immigrant families seeking safety, and young survivors of trauma; and

WHEREAS, despite hardship in her own life, Marjorie always focused on the positive and was curious about others and their lives. Friends described her as sweet, funny, thoughtful, smart - the kind of person you just wanted to be around. A colleague remembered the time she took his daughter to a K-pop concert at the United Center along with her daughter, although she really didn't know his daughter. She just learned that they had a common interest and invited her to come; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie was a beloved and caring wife, mother, sister and aunt. She is survived by her husband Karl Kuhrman; four children: Judson, Sam, Mariana, and Jacob; two brothers, nieces, a nephew, and many other family members who loved her dearly. She was the daughter of Harold and Marianne Fujara of Chicago, Illinois both of whom preceded her in death. She will be sorely missed by her family, friends, colleagues, and members of St. Nicholas Church in Evanston.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the life and work of Dr. Marjorie Ruth Fujara, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions she made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of same be tendered to the family of Dr. Marjorie Ruth Fujara.

[21-6228](#)

Sponsored by: SCOTT R. BRITTON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WILLIAM "BILL" BURDICK KELLY, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called William "Bill" Burdick Kelly from our midst on October 18, 2021 at the age of 58; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Burdick Kelly attended Loyola Academy before graduating with his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois in 1988; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly received his Juris Doctor from the Kent College of Law in 1993; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly served honorably in the U.S. Army Reserve for 32 years, including three deployments to Afghanistan and Bahrain during the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a Psychological Operations officer William “Bill” Burdick Kelly commanded at the Platoon, Detachment, Company, and Battalion level; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly served Cook County as an Assistant State’s Attorney for 28 years;

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly was a lifelong Northfield resident where he and his wife, Susan, raised their five children: Sean, Christopher, Robert, Hannah, and William; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly believed in giving back to his community, regularly attending services at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, and supporting Northfield youth as an Assistant Scoutmaster with BSA Troop 2; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly was known for his love for the Chicago Cubs, U.S. Civil War history, golf, Coca-Cola, and spending quality time with his family; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Burdick Kelly will be remembered for his steadfast leadership and unwavering dedication to his community and country; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of William “Bill” Burdick Kelly and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to the family of William “Bill” Burdick Kelly so his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[21-6238](#)

Sponsored by: BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING JOHN VOIT FOR 23 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AT UCP SEGUIN OF GREATER CHICAGO

WHEREAS, John Voit in his 23 years at UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, has presided over the growth of residential services to serve nearly 300 individuals in more than 75 community integrated homes scattered through more than 30 communities, including those individuals transitioning from state-operated facilities - while ensuring each home is fully accessible and fitted with fire safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, John Voit has led agency efforts in the formation of a variety of social enterprises collectively entitled Seguin Enterprises, which for the past nearly two decades, have provided gainful employment for people with IDD while securing discretionary earned income to support services; and

WHEREAS, Under John's leadership, UCP Seguin has nearly doubled its foster care services to children and adolescents with specialized medical and behavioral challenges, while emphasizing community inclusion and effective transition into adult services; and

WHEREAS, UCP Seguin has responded to the growing population of seniors with IDD, through the establishment of the SeniorCares group home initiatives and the founding of the Betty Scheck Senior Center Day Services program; and

WHEREAS, John Voit, drawing from his experience as a parent of a daughter with IDD, led efforts to establish the Building Bridges to the Future transition to adulthood initiative, which now annually supports more than 360 special education students and their families in accessing post-secondary community-inclusive service and education options; and

WHEREAS, John's vision for UCP Seguin is to continue to build residential and job creation opportunities for those with disabilities to live their best life, to forge new paths by not only supporting those in care, but also building trust that they will be cared for throughout their lives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize John Voit, upon his retirement as President/CEO of UCP Seguin on November 9, 2021 for his commitment to the thousands of individuals who benefitted from the IDD community provider system throughout Illinois and for those cared for by UCP Seguin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a ceremonial copy of this resolution be tendered to John Voit, as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the President of the Cook County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

