



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

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

Consent Agenda

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 10:00 AM

[23-1483](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY 2023 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, a volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities, repaired its first home in suburban Cook County in 1992, and has since rehabilitated nearly 1,900 homes, as well as assisted in the development of essential community centers and gardens; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is part of a national nonprofit program, which sponsors National Rebuilding Day across the country on the last Saturday in April; and

WHEREAS, every year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago selects two neighborhoods in Cook County in which to provide home repair for elderly, disabled, or low income individuals; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 volunteers annually, including Cook County employees, donate their time and talents to plan and complete hundreds of free home repairs for residents in Cook County through Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's volunteer teams; and

WHEREAS, repairs typically focus on keeping homeowners "warm, safe and dry" and also improve access for low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, steps were taken to ensure the effects of COVID-19 were mitigated and minimized and that Cook County residents remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 National Rebuilding Day activities, avoiding in-home repairs that could put anyone at risk; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago sought new and meaningful ways to continue to provide services and remain true to their mission; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago quickly adapted to this new reality and provided 400 cloth facemasks, 1,580 ounces of hand sanitizer, delivered 9,000 lbs of groceries, conducted 56 furnace and boiler tune-ups, built 200 learn-at-home student desks, created 100 address placards to aid first

responders in identifying homes, and fabricated 40 COVID-safe partitions for local shelters; and

WHEREAS, last year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago was cautious but optimistic. The County contributed \$65,000 through its Community Development Block Grant program supporting two renovations and repaired homes in south suburban Chicago Heights. As such, services to homeowners continued in a manner that keeps volunteers and homeowners safe. This year, Rebuilding Together plans another National Rebuilding Day on April 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, This year, Rebuilding Together services will be rendered for homes in Blue Island; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an example of Cook County and other local governments working in partnership with private corporations to assist residents and communities in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize and express Cook County's sincere gratitude to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago and its participating companies, as we work together to restore homes to a warm, safe, and dry condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that various departments, including but not limited to the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and the Bureau of Asset Management continue to work annually with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago to determine project scope for the Cook County sponsored projects and coordinate volunteers annually for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and Bureau of Asset Management be recognized for their ongoing efforts in determining Cook County's annual project scope and determining repairs that will be conducted by Cook County employee volunteers for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago in acknowledgment of its past accomplishments and to a successful upcoming year.

[23-0992](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JESSE WHITE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Mr. Jesse White was born on June 23, 1934, in Alton, Illinois, and in 1943 moved to Chicago with his parents where he attended Schiller Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White went on to attend Waller High School (now Lincoln Park Academy), where he was active in school athletics, being named All-City in basketball and baseball and excelling at tumbling; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, he enrolled at Alabama State College, majoring in physical education, and played baseball and basketball, earning All-Conference honors in both sports; and

WHEREAS, in May 1995, Mr. White was inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in June 1995; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his diploma from Alabama State College, Jesse signed with the Chicago Cubs organization; however, four days before leaving for spring training, he was drafted by the United States Army, where he attended jump school and was trained as a paratrooper and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. He would later join the Army Reserves and become a member of the Illinois National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White finished his military service in 1959 and returned to Chicago, where he finally began his professional baseball career, playing for several seasons with the Chicago Cubs organization; and

WHEREAS, in the off-season, Mr. White worked as a physical education instructor at Schiller Elementary School, the school that he attended as a child, as well as with the Chicago Park District where he worked as a gymnastics coach and teacher for the Chicago Park District YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and enjoyed a 33-year career with the Chicago public school system as a teacher and administrator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White was asked to organize a gym show at the Rockwell Garden Housing Projects, which would lay the foundation for what would become known worldwide as the Jesse White Tumbling Team and since the team's inception, over 10,000 children, ages 6 and up, have participated in the program; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse White Tumblers give more than 1,500 performances each year at major sporting events and community, business, and charity functions, garnering national and international attention and have performed throughout the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Belize, China, Israel, Tokyo, Japan, and Zagreb, Croatia. The team has also been featured in commercials, national television shows, and motion pictures; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served on the Committees on Aging, Elementary & Secondary Education, Public Utilities, and chaired the Committee on Children and Human Services. Among the bills proposed by White in the House was the Good Samaritan Bill, which allowed hotels to offer leftover food to soup kitchens without threat of liability; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White served 16 years in the Illinois General Assembly representing the most culturally, economically, and racially diverse district in Illinois building a solid record for fighting crime, improving education, and helping senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White would go on to become the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, the nation's second largest Recorder of Deeds office in the country at the time having been elected to the post in 1992 and re-elected in 1996; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 1998, Mr. White was elected Illinois Secretary of State by a margin of over 450,000 votes. He was sworn into office on January 11, 1999, serving as the 37th Secretary of State and retired as the longest serving and first African American to hold this position and in the process becoming perhaps the best-known and best-liked officeholder in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the indelible impact both inside and outside the world of politics over his remarkable career, this Honorable Body wishes to honor Mr. Jesse White on the occasion of his retirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Mr. Jesse White on his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service; 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 Mr. Jesse White as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[23-1866](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING CHERYL GREEN, Ph.D., PRESIDENT, GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, Dr. Cheryl Green brings more than 30 years of professional experience in higher education to her role as the sixth President of Governors State University, and the leader of the Jaguar family. A passionate educator and administrator, Dr. Green believes fiercely in the power of education to change lives. Throughout her career, she has pioneered the innovation of academic enrichment opportunities and student success initiatives that promote increased retention and graduation rates for first generation and non-traditional college students; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Dr. Green served as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, as Interim Chancellor for the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, and as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, before her time at Tennessee State University, Dr. Green served at Chicago State University in a variety of administrative and academic roles, including Director/Chair of the counseling department, inaugural dean of first-year students, acting associate director of career placement, and as a tenured associate professor of counseling. In addition, Dr. Green served as the statewide representative for 2,700 faculty and staff in her role as the Grievance Officer for the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) Local 4100 for seven public universities; and

WHEREAS, her fiscal experience includes the budget management of more than \$300 million dollars at three universities. Throughout her career she has served as the primary or contributing author for multiple grants, which yielded more than \$5million dollars in revenue. Most of her scholarly research has been focused on increasing student achievement and delivering community-based health initiatives for diverse student populations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green's commitment to making a difference is evidenced by her service to the community, which spans the United States and has included serving on ten different advisory boards or boards of directors. Currently, she serves on the Manchester University Board of Trustees, the Association of Governing Boards (ABG) Council of Presidents, the Will County Center for Economic Development Board of Directors, and the Southland Development Authority Board of Directors. In the recent past, she has been active on the Howard Hughes Medical Institute STEM Grant Advisory Board of UW Madison, the Forward 50 Advisory Board for the National Association of Student and Financial Aid Administrators, and the Milwaukee based Gift of Adoption Wisconsin Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green is the proud recipient of Chicago Crain's 2021 Notable Black Leaders and Executives, and the Illinois Black Hall of Fame has honored her as a Woman of First Distinction. In March 2022, Dr. Green was awarded the Excellence in Education award by the Central Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®; and

WHEREAS, Newsweek recently featured Dr. Green in a profile that discussed the university's 2022 ranking in U.S. News & World Report for one of the top 25 best Midwest schools for social mobility; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green has a Ph.D. and master's degree in counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. She obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from Manchester College (now Manchester University) in North Manchester, Indiana. She also holds several National Incident Management System certificates from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Institute and serves as a recognized leader in grievance mediation and conflict resolution; and

WHEREAS, originally from Chicago, Illinois, Dr. Green is also the loving mother of two adult children who constantly keep her inspired to believe in the worth and potential of all human beings and to make a difference in the world;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby celebrate Dr. Cheryl Green, President of Governors State University, and

recognize the significant growth GSU has experienced under her leadership. We honor her this March for Women's History Month as the first African American woman to lead the University; 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 Dr. Cheryl Green as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[23-1867](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING J. IVY

WHEREAS, J. Ivy is an award-winning poet, author, actor, and philanthropist who exemplifies the spirit of excellence, perseverance, and creativity in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy was born on the South Side of Chicago on March 3, 1976, to WVON radio personality James Ivy Richardson and Pamela Richardson, a registered nurse who served at Cook County Hospital; and, as a child the family, along with two brothers, Virgil, and Sergio, relocated to the south suburbs; and

WHEREAS, he lost a third brother, Demond, to gun violence in 1988, sparking his commitment to eradicating the apathy, despair and hopelessness that ensnared far too many of his peers; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 J. Ivy, graduated from Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields, and attended Illinois State University where he majored in marketing and worked various jobs while daring to dream big; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy's poetry and storytelling styles were influenced by Gil Scott-Heron, The Last Poets, Hip Hop musician Slick Rick, Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, as well as civil rights champion Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who inspired him to demonstrated speaking truth to power; and, in 2001 he received his big break when he performed, "I Need to Write" on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, which earned him a Peabody Award; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy's career attracted more recognition when he wrote and was featured on the single, "Never Let Me Down," on Kanye West's four times platinum, Grammy Award-winning album College Dropout, featuring Jay Z; and, he was credited with giving EGOT winner singer/songwriter John Stephens his moniker, "John Legend;" and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy married Chicago, native singer/songwriter Tarrey Torae in 2005, and together they wrote and produced the album "For Better or Worse," and, he also recorded solo albums, "Down at Loose Skillet" (2001), "Here I Am" (2010), "My Daddy's Records" (2017) and, " Digging in Papes: The

Mixtape” (2014); and

WHEREAS, he has written three best-selling books “Poetically Black: Ivy in the Making” (1995), “Here I Am” (2012) and “Dear Father: Breaking the Cycle of Pain” (2015, Simon & Schuster); and, after being commissioned by NBA champion Michael Jordan and Dr. Deepak Chopra, in 2020 he wrote and narrated Beyoncé’s “Black Is King” promo for “Return of the NBA” which won a Clio award-winning for innovation and creative excellence; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 J. Ivy received a Grammy nomination for his fifth studio album “Catching Dreams: Live at Fort Knox Chicago,” which was nominated in the category of “Best Spoken Word Album,” alongside actors Levar Burton, Don Cheadle, comedian Dave Chappelle, poet Amir Suliman, and former President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the U.S. Recording Academy created a new Grammy category for poets-Best Spoken Word Poetry Album, which recognizes excellence in spoken word albums specific to the performance of poetry with or without music, thanks to J. Ivy a national trustee for the Recording Academy who pushed for the Grammys to honor the form for years; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2023, J. Ivy won the 1st ever Grammy for Best Spoken Word Poetry Album, the category he helped create, for his 6th album ‘The Poet Who Sat by the Door’ becoming the 1st poet to win a Grammy since Maya Angelou, who won 3 times the last in 2002; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy has also been awarded by national and local organizations, including receiving two NAACP Image recognitions (for documentaries “Muhammad Ali People’s Champ;” and “Martin: The Legacy of a King;”) both of which aired on Black Entertainment Television; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy was the lead writer, voice director, and cast member of the record-breaking Netflix documentary “jeen-yuhs: A Kanye West Trilog” directed by Coodie and; Chike; and, after serving as the Recording Academy’s Chicago chapter president for two years, in 2021 he became the youngest person to serve as a national trustee thus becoming the first poet in the history of the Academy to hold those positions; and

WHEREAS, he also serves as resident poet Ernie Barnes Foundation; and he is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the Writers’ Guild; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy devotes considerable time to speaking to students, aspiring artists and disadvantaged youth, and other marginalized communities throughout Cook County, the State of Illinois, and the nation; and he also mentors; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy is a recognized advocate for mental health and suicide prevention nothing that both his works, “Never Let Me Down” and “Dear Father” have been credited by scores of people as the reason they resisted self-harm or suicide; and his work with the fatherless to reduce depression and tap into the power of forgiveness, leading many to reconnect with their dads and to change their lives; and

WHEREAS, J. Ivy continues his commitment to education, excellence, and community service as a resident of Richton Park, IL;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Cook County resident, son, husband, poet, author, songwriter, actor J. Ivy and congratulate him for his recent Grammy award and his numerous accomplishments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to J. Ivy as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[23-1868](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE OAK FOREST HIGH SCHOOL BENGALS VARSITY CHEER SQUAD ON WINNING THE 2023 IHSA STATE CHEER SQUAD CHAMPIONSHIP

WHEREAS, the Oak Forest High School Bengals Varsity Cheer Squad won the IHSA State Cheer Squad Championship on February 4, 2023, in Bloomington, IL; and

WHEREAS, the day before in the preliminary rounds, the team went up against 25 teams, finishing third in the top 10 and securing a spot in the finals; and

WHEREAS, the squad landed a score of 97.67, sealing the deal on the program's third state championship in the Medium Varsity division. Previous titles were in 2021 and 2016, with runner-up finishes in 2012, 2019, 2020 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, this year's team is comprised of Seniors Maddie Brankin, Eva Campbell, Katie Everitt, Jessica Gron, Colleen McMaster, Madelyn Ozminkowski, and Teegan Stranier, who became two-time state champions with the win; Juniors Janiya Brown, and Sarah Jensen; Sophomores Anna Crotty, Lillian Everitt, Skylar Fannin, and Lexi Pepper, and Freshmen Brooklyn Kincade, Aubrie Kucinski, and Chloe Prim; and

WHEREAS, the team is led by mother-daughter coaching duo Christine and Caitlin DiVent, known as Coach D and Coach CC with assistant coaches Denise Arenas and Brooke Eperjesi; and

WHEREAS, it was the first year in five that the team was all-female, but coaches embraced the moment, putting a "GIRL POWER" theme to the year, with lots of hot pink, and they created a motto of "Grit revives legacy, purpose wills results"; and

WHEREAS, according to their coaches, the squad came out on day 2 of the competition with a fierce confidence and hit their best routine of the season; and

WHEREAS, the competition on day 2 of the finals was extremely intense with seven of the top 10 teams hitting "perfect," deduction-free routines, which then brings final judging down to a few key factors-based on difficulty, execution and style with the Bengals squad scoring perfect 10's from all five officials for their motions to capture the victory edging out Lemont, with its second-place score of 95.03, and Antioch, with a 92.23; and

WHEREAS, Oak Forest High School Principal Dr. Jane Dempsey lauded the girls in a school announcement Monday after the competition, stating, "Their routine, Girl Power, celebrates 50 years since Title IX gave equal access to girls sports," adding, "The routine is hard hitting and requires precision, athleticism and power." Fans were decked out in hot pink for the weekend, and the girls wore matching pink bows in their hair; and

WHEREAS, it was such a different experience than the squad's last championship, won virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, without an audience. The support and spirit in the arena were remarkable; and

WHEREAS, the squad returned home triumphantly to a parade and well wishes from the school and classmates, with "Congratulations State Champions" spelled out in the fence line near Oak Forest High School; and

WHEREAS, their excellent results are a testament to the hard work of the team, coaches, and the parents who supported them; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Forest City Council recognized the squad during its meeting on February 14th at City Hall, and the District 228 Board of Education honored their accomplishment at its February 21st meeting at Oak Forest High School; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to congratulate the success of these outstanding Oak Forest student athletes and their coaches;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulates the Oak Forest High School Bengals Varsity Cheer Squad for their 2023 IHSA State Championship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to the squad members, coaches, and Principal of Oak Forest High School as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[23-1901](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**PATTON FEICHTER RETIREMENT, ELK GROVE VILLAGE TRUSTEE**

WHEREAS, Patton “Pat” Feichter has been an Elk Grove Village Trustee for 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Pat also served on the Plan Commission for 7 years before he became trustee, leading to a combined 33 years of public service to the Village of Elk Grove Village; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed as Village Trustee in 1996 and elected to 6 consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, Pat served as a member and chair of the Recycling and Waste Committee for over 13 years, and was a major proponent in creating convenient recycling opportunities for the members of the community; and,

WHEREAS, he spearheaded bringing the Village’s Paint & Motor Recycling event to fruition; and

WHEREAS, he served as Chair of the Personnel Committee, Information Committee, and Capital Improvements Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Youth Committee, Judiciary Planning & Zoning Committee, and the False Alarm Hearing Board; and

WHEREAS, Pat served as a liaison with the Friends of Cycling in Elk Grove Village and was a champion for the opening and extension of pedestrian use paths in the Village and neighboring areas; and

WHEREAS, Pat also served as a member of the Elk Grove Village Bicycle Plan Task Force in 2021, to support the addition of safe and efficient pathways for cyclists; and,

WHEREAS, he was an active member of the Community Character Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Pat represented Elk Grove Village as a board member of Meet Chicago Northwest, and helped to attract local tourism and enhance the local economy through visitor spending; and

WHEREAS, Pat was a strong supporter of the Village’s Friendship City program with Pernik, Bulgaria, and he participated in two visits to Pernik as a representative of the Village; and

WHEREAS, Village Trustee Feichter served with 2 mayors, 9 village trustees, 3 village managers, attended 519 Village Board meetings, and voted on 1,220 Village Ordinances and 1,574 Village

Resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Pat also spent his career as a teacher at Maine South High School, where he taught students about political science and the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, his passion for teaching led to the creation of a program supporting students competing on a state and national level in front of prestigious judges on their knowledge of issues concerning constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, Pat will now be retired and able to spend more time with his wife, Anne; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its congratulations to Patton “Pat” Feichter on his retirement from the position of Elk Grove Village Trustee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to Pat Feichter as he enjoys every day of his retirement.

[23-1865](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF PALENQUE LSNA

WHEREAS, in May 2022, the organization formerly known as the Logan Square Neighborhood Association commemorated their 60th anniversary of their founding by transforming into Palenque LSNA. This May 2023, they will be celebrating their 61st anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the organization is a multi-issue community organization, directly serving more than 6,500 residents across the Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale neighborhoods of Chicago and impacting tens of thousands more through nationally-recognized issue campaigns and programs; and

WHEREAS, the organization has declared its mission statement to be “Palenque LSNA is a catalyst for Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities and allies to take care of one another and take strategic action for systemic change and a just, resilient, and joyful future;” and

WHEREAS, “palenques” - sometimes called quilombos in Brazil or maroon communities in the United States of America - are settlements formed throughout the Americas by Africans and their descendants who escaped slavery. Those formerly enslaved would live alongside the indigenous people to establish communities and protect each other from European colonists; and

WHEREAS, the organization chose the word “palenque” because the settlements have a deep history of bringing Black, indigenous, and Latinx communities together. Palenque LSNA leaders want to convey their commitment to fighting for social justice for the aforementioned communities living within Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale with this name change; and

WHEREAS, Executive Director of Palenque LSNA Juliet de Jesus Alejandre and the organization have invited Latinx community members to remember and learn how many of them belong to the African diaspora, given that nearly 90% of captive Africans were brought to Latin America, and to better challenge anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity in Latinx cultures; and

WHEREAS, the organization historically has brought together community members to organize against school overcrowding. Black, brown, and immigrant mothers organized together to demand better conditions for their children from Chicago Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Palenque LSNA has pioneered the development of full-service community schools, with after-school programming for kids, and educational programs (GED, ESL, citizenship classes) for parents and community members. The approach centers on promoting parent involvement; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides vital services to the community, including resources for housing, immigration legal services, a Parent Mentor Program, youth leadership opportunities, arts & culture programming, and community-based planning; and

WHEREAS, the organization promoted the community’s demand for affordable-housing development near the Chicago Transit Authority’s Blue Line train and initiated the first steps in its advocacy. Through their successful efforts with a local coalition of organizations, elected officials, and neighborhood residents, the construction began for the Lucy Gonzalez Parsons Apartments in September 2020. Today, this development provides high-quality, affordable rental housing, ensuring that Logan Square residents continue to have the option to stay in the neighborhood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and congratulate Palenque LSNA on the 61st anniversary of their founding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the organization as an expression of our gratitude and esteem.