



**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**

**Second Set**

[23-1426](#)

**Sponsored by:** SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOSINA MORITA, SEAN M. MORRISON, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, DONNA MILLER, KEVIN B. MORRISON and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Illinois is home to more than 71,000 farms, 96 percent of which are family-owned; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois agriculture and related industries support nearly 482,000 jobs and generates nearly \$51 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, Agriculture includes the growing, raising, and harvesting of crops for both human and animal consumption as well as the raising of livestock; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is home to more than 12,000 acres of farmland; and

**WHEREAS**, Agriculture contributes nearly \$20 million to Cook County economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Over four percent of Cook County's total workforce is employed in an agricultural-related job including food handling and processing; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County agriculture includes vegetable, floriculture, grain, nursery, and row crop production as well as livestock; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County's agricultural landscape includes horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the United States Department of Agriculture 2017 Census of Agriculture, Cook County is ranked second in the state for equine production with a sales volume of over \$1.5 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County ranks twelfth in the state for nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod production; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is home to numerous examples of urban agriculture including the raising, cultivation, processing, marketing, and distribution of food in urban and suburban settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Urban agriculture generally involves outdoor and indoor vertical production, indoor warehouse farms, greenhouses, rooftop farms, hydroponic and aquaponic facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Over two percent of Cook County farms are certified organic by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, Over 15 percent of Cook County farmers sell directly to consumers at farmstands, roadside markets, farmers markets and through community support agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook and Illinois farmers grow healthy and nutritious food; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County farmers recognize that too many individuals suffer from food insecurity and encourage farmers to partner with food banks, food recovery organizations, and other food distribution organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Farm Bureau developed a program to purchase and deliver food and member donations to partner food pantries; to encourage online engagement to raise awareness of area food pantries, their needs, and service areas; and a grant program for local food pantries to expand their food offerings or facility in light of the unprecedented need due to the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Farm Bureau volunteers partnered with over 70 community partners to assist over 7,400 individuals with their food needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook and Illinois farmers have made meaningful contributions toward water quality improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, Through the science-based framework provided by the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, Cook County and Illinois farmers are using research, technology and industry experience to assess and reduce nutrient loss to Illinois waters and to the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Using tools and technology to better manage soil nutrients, field time and air quality, farmers are using fewer natural resources and reducing their carbon footprint while producing food; and

**WHEREAS**, Farmland is a finite resource that is vital to agriculture, food production, and the economic well-being of Cook County; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognize the value agriculture contributes to the local economy and support agriculture within the county; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the Cook County Farm Bureau®.

[23-1987](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, 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, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**MARY P. WILKINS, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS**, on December 15, 2022, Mary P. Wilkins passed away at the age of 101, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma on April 12, 1921, the youngest of 11, to parents Jeff Corbin and Delia Glover Corbin. As a young adult, Mary moved to Chicago where she became a beloved member of the 1st Baptist Congregational Church, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary was a devoted Christian who actively participated in the church for decades, serving as a member and helping out with various events and activities. She was a shining example of faith and kindness, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary was also a talented seamstress and had a passion for fashion. She graduated from the Vogue Fashion Academy and spent her days creating beautiful garments and dresses for her friends and family. She had a keen eye for style and always looked impeccably put together, no matter the occasion, and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to her love of fashion and fine dining, Mary was also a fan of boxing and enjoyed watching matches with her granddaughter, Monica, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary was a devoted wife to her beloved husband of over 50 years, James Wilkins Sr. who passed away in 1999. Mary was also preceded in death by three of her sons: James Jr, Victor, and Larry Wilkins as well as her ten siblings, and

**WHEREAS**, despite her many losses, Mary remained a strong and resilient woman, who loved travel and enjoyed visiting new places, especially Paris. She was an avid reader as well as fashionista who enjoyed spending her evening with a good book or fashion magazine. Mary spent a great deal of time with her daughter and best friend, Delores, who took great care of her during her older years, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary is survived by her daughters Phyllis (Wilkins) Gordon and Dolores Wilkins, her granddaughter Monica Gordon and grandson Russell Gordon, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary was deeply loved by her children and grandchildren, and they will remember her for her kindness, grace, and sense of humor, and

**WHEREAS**, Mary will also be deeply missed by her church family and all who knew her. She was a kind and compassionate woman who touched the lives of everyone she met. She leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and strength that will continue to inspire those who knew her.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Board of Commissioners of Cook County do hereby offer their deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Mary P. Wilkins, 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 same be tendered to the family of Mary P. Wilkins so that her memory may be honored and ever cherished.

[23-1988](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **JOHN HOUSTON SIMPSON, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS**, on November 3, 2022, John Houston Simpson completed his journey on Earth at the age of 45, and

**WHEREAS**, John Houston Simpson was born in Seattle, Washington on September 10, 1977 soon after his twin brother, Charles R. Simpson III, to Charles R. Simpson Jr. and Gloria Jean Simpson (Jones), and

**WHEREAS**, John was baptized at an early age at New Faith Baptist Church in Matteson, IL. He graduated from Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields, IL and he attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, and

**WHEREAS**, John was a businessman and an entrepreneur. He was the proprietor of Houston's Auto Spa & Sales in Chicago Heights, IL and was involved in other business ventures. He will be greatly missed by his business partners and a wide array of long-term friends, and

**WHEREAS**, John was a devoted father, had an easy laugh, a sharp wit, and a deep connection to his family, especially his cousins. John loved to travel and was a great dancer, and

**WHEREAS**, John is survived by his 9 year old son, John Simpson, Jr; his parents, Charles and Gloria Simpson; his identical twin brother Charles R. Simpson III; his paternal grandmother Ardella Green of Cincinnati, OH; his maternal grandmother, Corine Jones of Louisville, KY; his nephew Steven Simpson; his aunts Iris Sewell, Karen Soumare, Marcella Crayton, and Tina Forward; his uncle Dr. Larry Jones; his cousins; and his countless friends.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Board of Commissioners of Cook County do hereby offer their deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of John Houston Simpson, 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 same be tendered to the family of John Houston Simpson so that his memory may be honored and ever cherished.

[23-1990](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**ADBHHUT MEDIA, 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, Adbhhut Media was started on March 24, 2018 by Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan; and

**WHEREAS**, Adbhhut Media is a media company for all communities, including those that speak English, Hindi, and/or Urdu; and

**WHEREAS**, they have an office based in Hanover Park, Illinois, in the Northwest suburbs; and

**WHEREAS**, Adbhhut Media has grown into a global media organization that is dedicated to enhancing society by creating, collecting, and distributing high-quality news and information; and

**WHEREAS**, they started by covering business and financial news, and have expanded to cover social issues, arts, culture, lifestyle, real estate, sports, personal health, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, their digital form encourages participation and customization across all platforms so readers can engage with them anytime, anywhere; and

**WHEREAS**, Adbhhut Media also gives back to the community by organizing events with media partners and providing support for unprivileged children and families worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Adbhhut Media has grown into an organization that has individuals that work together as a team; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby join Adbhhut Media for celebrating 5 years of excellent journalism and wish them many more years to come; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy be tendered to Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan.

23-1991

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****RESOLUTION HONORING SHAWN JEFFERS FOR HIS SERVICE AT LITTLE CITY FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, after achieving 30 years of high-level experience in human services and non-profit management, Shawn E. Jeffers became the Executive Director of Little City Foundation in March 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Shawn received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Aurora University in 1975 and his Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University in 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, selected for his outstanding ability to provide high-quality leadership and strategic direction, Mr. Jeffers tirelessly champions to attain equality and dignity for children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, he leads a volunteer board comprised of 40 of Chicago's finest public and private sector leaders and paves the path for over 500 staff in providing groundbreaking, innovative service to hundreds of Illinois' citizens with disabilities (in Palatine and throughout the Chicagoland region). Mr. Jeffers also manages the over 60-year-old, non-profit service provider agency's nearly \$45 million operating budget; and

**WHEREAS**, a humanitarian in his own right, Mr. Jeffers has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Hope School in Springfield, Associate Director for the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Director of the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center, the Assistant Director of the Chester Mental Health Center, the Unit Director of the Ludeman Developmental Center, the Diagnostic Team Supervisor for the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles, and a Program Coordinator and Counselor for the Illinois Youth Center; and

**WHEREAS**, with a public and human service career spanning nearly 50 years, Shawn has held many significant executive leadership positions in both the governmental and nonprofit sector. He is widely known as a strong and passionate advocate for the rights of individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. He currently or has served on numerous government, academic, and community advisory groups and boards as a member and/or officer. For over the past 15 years Shawn has served as an adjunct instructor at NIU-Dekalb., MPA Program teaching management and leadership courses focused on nonprofit organizations; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Shawn E. Jeffers of Little City Foundation upon the occasion of his retirement for his service to the children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities and all residents of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Jeffers.

[23-1993](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE DUFFEY FAMILY FOR THEIR IMPACT ON LITTLE CITY**

**WHEREAS**, John and Becky Duffey have transformed Little City in such a profound and lasting way that it is impossible to measure the life-changing impact they have had on so many people; and

**WHEREAS**, launched in November 2014, the Duffey Family Children's Village was the realization of a visionary effort to give children with autism and other developmental and intellectual disabilities unprecedented opportunity for growth. In these state-of-the-art homes, children learn life skills, explore sensory rooms, and have the comfort and privacy of their own personalized bedrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, Little City has seen growth in these children like never before thanks to the dynamic environments provided by these homes. Today, the Duffey Family Children's Village has grown to four homes with eight children each and two more homes are currently under construction; and

**WHEREAS**, The Duffey's continued support of Little City has helped bolster special events like the Little City Golf Classic and Annual Dinner Gala and has continued to make the Children's Village a focus for other donors who have seen the potential and are eager to invest in the children's futures; and

**WHEREAS**, The Duffey's philanthropy laid the foundation for first-of-its-kind programs like the THRIVE high-intensity program and has helped position Little City as the leader in serving children with significant and profound autism both in residential and educational services; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor John and Becky Duffey for their dedication and service to children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities and all residents of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to John and Becky Duffey.



[23-1999](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING PAMELA BUTTS TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Pamela Butts is the Director of Non-Public Programs for Chicago Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, She oversees and monitor all the federal funds for program services under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for the elementary and high schools in Chicago, Illinois which includes Catholic, Christian, Independent, Islamic, Jewish, Lutheran schools and Neglected residential sites: Mercy for Boys and Girls, UCAN, Lawrence Hall, Lydia Home, MYSI, Aunt Marthas and Thresholds; and

**WHEREAS**, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and a Master of Arts degree in Education, Counseling and Human Services/Human Resource Development from Roosevelt University; and

**WHEREAS**, Pamela also has served as director of New Eclipse Community Alliance (NECA) 501c3 community outreach agency since 2013. Under her leadership, NECA, a non-profit with the mission of providing community outreach and a safe haven for the children and families by providing direct and indirect educational, social/emotional, economic development and employment/training resources to sustain and improve overall quality of life. To date, the nonprofit has been able to provide thousands of families with food, clothes, shoes, school supplies coats, gift cards, jobs, energy assistance, transportation assistance, reentry services, job readiness, computer, internet, and mental wellness through various program services. Pamela and her team are diligently working on the following projects: Community Commercial Kitchen, restructuring Community Garden, enhancing Food Pantry & Home Delivery and Comprehensive Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction.; and

**WHEREAS**, Pamela is a true professional, visionary, motivator and team player with exceptional leadership, relationship building, and communication skills; and

**WHEREAS**, She is a true advocate and encourager for all youth, the elderly and veterans; especially for those who seem to have “no voice”, the underrepresented and underserved. She is most passionate about her family; helping others meet their goals. Her motto is “Make It Happen”,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that, I Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer 2nd District, along with President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County takes great pleasure in honoring and celebrating Pamela Butts for transforming lives through community engagement throughout Cook County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution is shared upon the official proceedings of this honorable body and that an official copy of the same is tendered to Pamela Butts in

honor of this auspicious occasion

[23-2003](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING REMEL TERRY TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS,** Remel Terry is a Policy Expert, Community Champion, Social Commentator and Influencer; and

**WHEREAS,** Remel Terry is a community leader and advocate who proudly represents Chicago's Westside; and

**WHEREAS,** Remel received her Bachelor of Science degree from Lewis University in Aviation Administration with a Minor in Business; and

**WHEREAS,** She has dedicated her life's work to the advancement of the African American community and its youth; and

**WHEREAS,** Remel is committed to eradicating racial disparities is a direct result of her upbringing and tightly knit village.; and

**WHEREAS,** Remel has partnered with various grassroots organizations to address issues of inequity in legislation and enforcement, economic development, education, American legal system reform, healthcare, affordable housing and political action; and

**WHEREAS,** Remel has been recognized by community-based organizations for her empowering leadership and her vested interest in helping Chicago residents revitalize their neighborhoods and realize the goal of financial and social equity; and

**WHEREAS,** she is fueled by her passion as a servant-leader. Remel is well respected in the community and maintains a reputation for operating with excellence and integrity. At her core, Remel embodies the sentiment, "We need not wait to see what others do." Additionally, Remel is the former Vice Chair for the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Targeted Community

**WHEREAS,** Most recently, Remel was appointed as an Interim Commissioner for the Community Opportunity in the digital gaming world and has partnered on community initiatives that focus on youth and violence prevention. Remel is known as a voice for the voiceless and collaborates with community residents, non-profit organizations and elected officials.

**WHEREAS,** Currently, Remel Terry serves as the 1st Vice President and Political Action Committee Chair for the Chicago Westside Branch NAACP.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that, I Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer 2nd District, along with President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County takes great pleasure in honoring and celebrating Remel Terry for transforming lives through community engagement throughout Cook County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution is shared upon the official proceedings of this honorable body and that an official copy of the same is tendered to Remel Terry in honor of this auspicious occasion