



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

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

Consent Agenda

Thursday, April 27, 2023, 10:00 AM

[23-2404](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

EARTH MONTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, is acknowledged as the start of the modern environmental movement, and today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes for a better environment, and April has come to be known as “Earth Month” by extension; and

WHEREAS, under Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle’s leadership, Cook County has set ambitious climate goals, to reduce carbon emissions from County-owned facilities and operations by 45 percent by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, as well as to use 100% renewable electricity by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Clean Energy Plan, issued in 2020 by the Bureau of Asset Management and Department of Environment and Sustainability and which received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award in 2021, sets forth a roadmap to reach these goals by reducing energy use and maintaining those reductions, and increasing use of renewable energy while supporting these actions through appropriate policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, through the diligent work of the Bureau of Asset Management, Department of Facilities Management, Department of Capital Planning, County building engineers at facilities across the County, and other partner bureaus and departments, Cook County facilities have already reached our 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal by reducing carbon emissions 45% from 2010 levels; and

WHEREAS, Cook County was recognized by People’s Gas Company for significant reductions in natural gas usage through updates to ventilation systems, boilers, steam traps and improved insulation; and

WHEREAS, Cook County’s Bureau of Asset Management has issued a request for proposals for an off-site renewable energy purchase agreement that will not only help meet the County’s sustainability goals, but also bolster the local green economy; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Asset Management has engaged in continuing education for Cook County Department of Facilities Management employees on solar installation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Cook County partnered with OpenLands to plant 41 mature shade trees native to northeast Illinois to replace dead and dying ash trees decimated by emerald ash borer at Maywood Courthouse, as well as collaborated with Nordson Green Earth Foundation and the City of Markham to plant a Miyawaki

“tiny forest” at Markham Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Cook County promotes both digital equity and environmental practices through donation of County salvage IT equipment at the end of its useful life and therefore of little to no value to other governments or at auction to PCs for People, a nonprofit whose mission is to provide technology access that offers employment and education to low-income individuals, families with children and those with disabilities and commits to zero landfill-use; and

WHEREAS, one of the six pillars of the Cook County’s Policy Roadmap, the strategic plan for Offices Under the President, is to support healthy, resilient communities that thrive economically, socially and environmentally; and

WHEREAS, Cook County offers many programs to help residents, businesses and communities become more sustainable, including C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy), which facilitates lower cost financing for businesses and institutions to invest in energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, and resiliency, and Grow Solar Chicagoland, which lowers the cost of solar panels for homeowners, and the Fair Transit South Cook pilot, which provides accessible, affordable, equitable transit while reducing congestion and carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has allocated over \$130 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the County’s efforts to make our communities more sustainable and address objectives and strategies outlined in the Policy Roadmap; and

WHEREAS, ARPA funding is supporting projects that include, among many others, installation of public electric vehicle charging stations in charging station “deserts”, assessment and remediation of brownfields, replacement of lead water service lines, addressing of drinking water affordability, support of the Good Food Purchasing Program and urban farming, installation of green as well as gray infrastructure for stormwater management, expansion of recycling facilities in the south suburbs, support of businesses to reduce their pollution and energy use, and, with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, implementation of the Community Conservation Corps, land acquisition in underserved southeast Cook County, and riparian restoration; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 during Earth Month, a new Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (“CHaRM Center”) was opened on April 22 at South Suburban College, in partnership with the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, through use of American Recovery Plan Act funding, providing a new permanent drop-off site where County residents can bring their household recycling, electronic waste, furniture, clothing and textiles, used medical equipment and Styrofoam. Materials will be refurbished or recycled. Also on April 22, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency held, in honor of the CHaRM Center grand opening, a household hazardous waste take-back event at South Suburban College; and

WHEREAS, the CHaRM Center will be available at no cost to residents on an ongoing basis, and will be open to accept materials on Tuesdays from 7:00 am to noon, Thursdays 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and the

second Saturday of every month from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; and

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

[23-2121](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JOSIE BROWN CHILDS

WHEREAS, Josie Brown Childs was born on October 13, 1926 in Clarksdale, Mississippi to Julia Brown and Charles Washington and lived her childhood between Memphis, Tennessee and Vicksburg, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Chicago in 1949, Josie Brown would begin a long and storied career in service of the City; and

WHEREAS, Josie Brown Childs served at the beginning of the late Harold Washington's first term as Mayor of Chicago, working as a specialist in the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events from 1983 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, after Josie Brown Childs' retirement, Josie spent her years working with organizations like The Chicago Urban League, the NAACP, the Chicago Public Library, Planned Parenthood, and many others, producing large events and cultivating community across Chicago, Cook County, and the Great Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, Josie Brown Childs would develop into a civic leader and activist, notably founding and leading the Mayor Harold Washington Legacy Committee in 2013, where she would help establish a scholarship in the late Mayor's name at his alma mater, Roosevelt University; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Public Library archived Josie Brown Childs' immense efforts to document and promote African American cultural awareness as the "Josie Brown Childs Papers," a 62-year archive of Chicago politics and cultural events in the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature at the Woodson Regional Library; and

WHEREAS, Josie Brown Childs leaves behind multiple generations of family and many loving communities across Chicago to mourn her passing from this life on Monday, February 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Josie Brown Childs lived a life that testified the importance of African American cultural awareness, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY: the President and its members do hereby hold their reverence in honor of the vibrant life of Josie Brown Childs as they offer their deepest condolences to her friends, family, and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Josie Brown Childs as an honorable expression of appreciation for her life and work.

[23-2206](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ROCHELLE TRENI, COMMENDATION AND RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

WHEREAS, Rochelle Treni has served as a dedicated employee at the Township of Schaumburg since January 23, 2017, currently serving as a Lead Program Specialist in the Welfare Services Department; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle is an integral and valued member of the Welfare Services team, helping to keep the Department organized; and

WHEREAS, for her dedication to upholding the Township's values of accountability, integrity, equity, excellence, and community, Rochelle was awarded Schaumburg Township Employee of the Year in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle also works the front desk of the food pantry and consistently comes up with new ideas to improve the food pantry experience for everyone, ensuring that it is a welcoming and safe place to shop; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle not only makes sure clients' food needs are met, but focuses on making their experience one of dignity and love, working to make people feel seen, heard, and understood; and

WHEREAS, she also ensures that she is an available resource for food pantry volunteers, going above and beyond to train them, answers any questions, and makes volunteers feel needed; and

WHEREAS, Rochelle consistently demonstrates her caring, compassionate heart in everything she does, being readily available to both to her clients and co-workers with a contagiously positive energy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that

the Board does hereby offer its commendation to Rochelle Treni for all her admirable work to help, care, and assist the Schaumburg Township community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to Rochelle Treni in recognition of her contributions to the Schaumburg Township.

[23-2472](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SIKH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years, working to grow and strengthen the country since; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have been contributing to the development of the United States since the mid-19th century with their work on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific & Eastern Railway; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world today, with more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide, an estimated 500,000 in the United States, and 25,000 in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans continue to make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of the United States through their work in areas like agriculture, information technology, small business, hospitality, trucking, medicine, technology, and the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans work to foster respect among all people through faith and service; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is committed to educating residents about the world's religions, the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of mutual understanding, and the elimination of violence; and

WHEREAS, Cook County seeks to further the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim and officially support April to be Sikh Awareness and Appreciation month in 2023.

[23-2473](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SAM L. LISSNER RETIREMENT, ELK GROVE VILLAGE TRUSTEE

WHEREAS, Sam L. Lissner has been an Elk Grove Village Trustee for 28 years; and

WHEREAS, Sam entered in public service as a Trustee on the William Rainey Harper College Board in 1986; and

WHEREAS, he additionally served on the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education from 1987 until 1995, being elected Board President in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he was elected as Village Trustee in 1995 and went on to serve seven consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, Sam served on nearly every possible Board committee during his tenure as Trustee, including serving as Chair of the Judiciary, Planning & Zoning Committee, and Co-Chair of the Industrial Commercial Revitalization Committee; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as Deputy Mayor, Chair of the Cable Television Committee, and member of the Capital Improvements and Information Committees; and

WHEREAS, as chair of the Information Committee, Sam led initiatives to re-design and modernize the Village website and the monthly Villager newsletter; and

WHEREAS, as Co-Chair of the Industrial Commercial Revitalization Committee, now the Business Leaders Forum, Sam acted as an “ambassador” with the Village’s economic development team, striving to become better acquainted with the needs of local manufacturers, distributors, and high-tech companies; and

WHEREAS, Sam’s dedication and service to Elk Grove Village had statewide impacts, including his work on the 2006 ban on indoor smoking at public places which inspired the Illinois General Assembly to pass a statewide indoor smoking ban shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Village Trustee Lissner served with 2 mayors, 10 village trustees, 3 village managers, attended 550 Village Board meetings, and voted on 1,360 Village Ordinances and 1,659 Village Resolutions; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its congratulations to Sam L. Lissner 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 Sam Lissner as he enjoys every day of his retirement.

[23-2504](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CHARLES WALSH RETIREMENT, ELK GROVE VILLAGE CHIEF OF POLICE

WHEREAS, Charles Walsh has served as Chief of the Elk Grove Village Police Department for more than six years; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walsh has served in law enforcement with Elk Grove Village for 32 years, having joined the Department in 1991 as a Patrol Officer following his service with the United States Air Force, later being promoted to Sergeant in 2002, and then to Commander in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walsh was appointed to the rank of Deputy Chief in 2011, where he oversaw criminal investigations, juvenile investigations, evidence section, records section, crime prevention, police accreditation, internal affairs, and the Citizen Emergency Response Team; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walsh has continued to maintain the Department's status as a fully accredited agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)-the gold standard in public safety; and

WHEREAS, he developed several innovations for the safety, wellbeing, and development of Elk Grove Village, including the development of 'Elk Grove Village Cares', which diverts those who struggle with substance use disorder from the criminal justice system and into a funded medical treatment program that addresses chronic addictions; and

WHEREAS, he also helped in the creation of 'Northwest Compass' (SAFE), a program to assist homeless individuals in the northwest suburbs by providing shelter and services; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walsh also established an adjudication program for local Village violations to help alleviate the county court system; and

WHEREAS, he oversaw a period of labor and management collaboration, successfully negotiating two collective bargaining agreements by working closely and transparently with union representatives; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walsh sought to continually improve the Department and its operations, such as through the department-wide rollout of body-worn cameras for police officers and public service officers, resulting in the Village's distinction by researchers at 'backgroundchecks.org' as one of Illinois' safest communities in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Cook County and the Cook County Board of Commissioners have had the honor of working with Chief Walsh and he has proved to be a wonderful partner; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walsh will now be retired and able to spend more time with his friends and family;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its congratulations to Charles on his retirement from the position of Chief of the Elk Grove Village Police Department; and

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

[23-2289](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, ALMA E. ANAYA, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN and BRIDGET GAINER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, this year's theme for Black Maternal Health Week is **"Our Bodies Belong to Us: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy!"**; and

WHEREAS, Black women in the United States experience unacceptably poor maternal health outcomes, including disproportionately high rates of death related to pregnancy or childbirth, and are three to four

times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women, and Illinois has maternal death statistics even higher than the national average with Black women in Illinois six times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition than white women; and

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

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic made things even worse. Health and Human Services officials and stakeholders stated that the pandemic worsened factors contributing to maternal health disparities, like access to care, cardiovascular problems and other underlying conditions. The maternal death rate for Black or African American (not Hispanic or Latina) women was 44.0 per 100,000 live births in 2019, then increased to 55.3 in 2020, and 68.9 in 2021. In contrast, White (not Hispanic or Latina) women had death rates of 17.9, 19.1, and 26.1, respectively., and Black women's heightened risk of pregnancy-related death spans income and education levels; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Robin Kelly has long championed maternal health by introducing the Momma's Act, and her Bi-Partisan Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act, which is a huge chunk of the Momma's Act, and was included in the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill; and

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

WHEREAS, this year's theme for National Minority Health Month is **"Better Health Through Better Understanding"**. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, will focus on improving health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority and American Indian/Alaska Native communities by providing them with culturally and linguistically competent healthcare services, information, and resources; and

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

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week in Cook County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby take this opportunity to acknowledge National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week; and

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

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

[23-2313](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JAIRO B. CRUZ

WHEREAS, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called from our midst Dr. Jairo Cruz on March 21st, 2023, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz was a cardiologist in Olympia Fields, Illinois and was affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Franciscan Health Olympia Fields and Advocate South Suburban Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz received his medical degree from Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro in 1970, and trained at Cook County Health starting in 1971, completing his residency in internal medicine and several fellowships in cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz was licensed in Illinois and board certified in internal medicine and cardiology and was a cardiology specialist with a subspecialty in adult congenital heart disease and after his tenure at Cook County Health was on staff at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields from April 26th, 1980 to October 26th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz attained Five Star ratings on Healthgrades and Healthgrades Honor Roll; and

WHEREAS, additionally Dr. Cruz was on staff at Bria, a low-income nursing home in Chicago Heights, to assist with the management of their heart failure patients. Many of these patients were Medicaid patients that did not have the resources that they needed to prevent progression of their disease and had frequent hospital readmissions, but he helped manage and direct their care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz started the heart failure clinic at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields in 2016 serving approximately 700 patients on a continual basis and with the use of evidence-based practices, had about 80% improvement of their left ventricular ejection fraction/heart function measure; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz collaborated with nursing leaders to start a monthly Community Educational program with speakers for the education of the heart failure patients, and on February 27th, 2017, he developed the Heart Failure Center Turnkey Plan for Transitional Care Partnership Group, which mapped out the Center's Heart Failure Disease Management Program utilizing concepts relating to population health management, integrated program development for heart failure quality of care, utilizing technology, and suggestions for organizing a heart failure team; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz developed a multidisciplinary team of people to work specifically on the management of transitions for heart failure patients that met daily Monday through Friday, and involved nursing leaders, Dr. Cruz, behavioral health social workers, case management, home health care and nursing management from the Telemetry Unit. He coined it "the Command Center for Heart Failure"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz was very concerned about dealing with all causes of patients' readmissions and mortality and morbidity reduction, and was involved with many research studies over the years, most recently Duke University's Connect- Heart Failure study, which dealt with care optimization through patient and hospital engagement utilizing inpatient and outpatient education and utilizing health applications; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz participated in many clinical trials related to medications for hypertension, cardiovascular inflammation, cholesterol, heart failure and Mis to name a few including: ALLHAT, OnTarget, Precision, CIRT, CLEAR, and PROMINENT. These studies were related to medications for Hypertension, Cardiovascular inflammation, cholesterol, MI and Heart Failure prevention and education and transitions of care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz became very interested in Social Determinants of Health and wanted to organize a community forum regarding such issues in the community, but the Covid-19 pandemic hit and curtailed his plans to have a community forum at our Franciscan Health Olympia Fields; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz noted that work was his hobby and racing yearly in the Mackinaw sailing race was his work. He sailed for a total of 27 races and was named an "old goat" on July 17, 2017, and for each race he took a special San Damiano (Franciscan) cross; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz was a man of great faith, and one who could share his devotion to faith, family,

his profession (hobby) and his work (sailing) and fought the fight and ran the race. Well done Dr. Cruz!; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cruz was the loving husband to Maria Donatela Camaya Cruz; Beloved father to Mary Ann Cruz (Michael Dennis) Dichoso, Rachelle Camaya (Carlos Julian Sison) Centeno and Jairo Bispo (Melinda Sue) Cruz Jr.; Loving grandfather to Josephine Camaya Dichoso, Nora Ellen Dichoso, Luke Modesto Dichoso, Gabriella Claire Centeno, Julie Ann Cruz Centeno, Camaya Elizabeth Cruz, Jairo John Cruz and Dominick Bishop Cruz; Cherished brother to Jader Bispo Cruz; dear uncle to Fernanda Cantalice Cruz, Claudio Cantalice Cruz and Eduardo DeSouza Cruz; Preceded in death by his parents Josaphat Bispo Cruz and Aurelina Ferreira Lopes Cruz;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and loved ones of Dr. Jairo B. Cruz; 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 the family of Dr. Jairo B. Cruz so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[23-2572](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRANDON JOHNSON, JOSINA MORITA, MAGGIE TREVOR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, STANLEY MOORE, DONNA MILLER, ALMA E. ANAYA, BILL LOWRY and KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 1 AS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

WHEREAS, on May 1, 1886, more than 300,000 U.S.-born and immigrant workers walked off their jobs to demand a shorter workday; and

WHEREAS, the epicenter of the movement was Chicago where 80,000 workers marched down Michigan Avenue arm-in-arm, their cry: "Eight-hour day with not cut in pay;" and

WHEREAS, three days later, on May 4, 1886, a peaceful rally for the eight-hour workday and a protest against the previous attacks on striking workers by police were held at Haymarket Square; and

WHEREAS, an unknown assailant threw a bomb into the crowd at the rally, killing one police officer, and resulting in a violent confrontation which left six officers and several workers dead; and

WHEREAS, labor activists, socialists, and anarchists were blamed for the "incident," and eight men were arrested and wrongfully convicted; and

WHEREAS, four of those eight men - August Spies, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, and Albert Parsons - were executed in a grave act of injustice, and a fifth, Louis Lingg was found dead in his cell; and

WHEREAS, six out of the eight men were immigrant workers; five of them were born in Germany and one in England; and

WHEREAS, in July 1889, on the 100th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille, an international federation of political leaders and trade unions met in Paris, and the assembled delegates, representing 24 nations, chose May 1 as International Workers' Day in honor of the Haymarket Martyrs of Chicago to continue the struggle for a shorter workday; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 1893, Illinois Governor John P. Altgeld pardoned Michael Schwab, Samuel Fielden, and Oscar Neebe - the three remaining men wrongfully prosecuted for "Haymarket Affair" or "Haymarket Incident," and

WHEREAS, on the first day of May of each year - May Day - millions of workers around the world take to the streets to continue the struggle for economic justice and workers' rights; and

WHEREAS, the first day of May 2023 will mark 137 years since the first May Day march occurred in Chicago; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board President and the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, assembled this twenty-seventh day of April 2023, do hereby recognize the first day of May of each year as International Workers' Day, and commemorate August Spies, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Albert Parsons, and Louis Lingg as martyrs for the great cause of labor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board President and the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners send warm greetings to all workers and all labor organizations in Cook County and across the globe that will commemorate the 137th anniversary of the first May Day march in Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Illinois Labor History Society, ARISE Chicago, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and the Chicago Teachers Union..

[23-2577](#)

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, 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 BARNNER DAVIS, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS Almighty God in his infinite wisdom has called John Barnner Davis from our midst; and

WHEREAS John Davis was the loving father of Darryl Davis (Bellary Darden-Davis) and Jonneida Davis; and

WHEREAS John Davis was the beloved son of Abraham Lincoln Davis and Emma Horne Davis Jones; and

WHEREAS John Davis was the cherished grandfather of Adore, Hunter and Journey; and

WHEREAS John Davis graduated from Miles College, where he was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and star football player; and

WHEREAS after graduation, John Davis served in the US Army and was drafted by the NFL's Los Angeles Rams; and

WHEREAS John Davis signed with the Chicago Bears after being recruited by George Halas; and

WHEREAS John Davis continued his studies in Chicago and received his master's degree in education from DePaul University and continued his studies to pursue a Doctorate from Southern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS for 30 years John Davis was a teacher and administrator with the Chicago Public Schools and later founded his own consultancy firm, Davis & Davis Associates; and

WHEREAS John Davis was an educator at Saint Xavier University and visiting instructor at Roosevelt University; and

WHEREAS John Davis published a biography *The Fruits of His Labor* and a book titled *The Super-Ridiculous False Narrative of Race*; and

WHEREAS all who knew him will attest that John Davis was a kind and compassionate man, virtuous of character and gentle in spirit, admired and respected by his many friends and neighbors, and dearly loved by his family; 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 and many friends of John Davis 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 Davis that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[23-2584](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, MONICA GORDON, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, KEVIN B. MORRISON and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioner unanimously voted to Recognized May as Mental Health Awareness Month in May 2021; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), determines mental health as a state of “well-being” in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to his or her community; and

WHEREAS, according to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2021, there were an estimated 57.8 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with Any Mental Illness (AMI). This number represented 22.8% of all U.S. adults. Young adults aged 18-25 years had the highest prevalence of AMI (33.7%) compared to adults aged 26-49 years (28.1%) and aged 50 and older (15.0%). The prevalence of AMI was higher among females (27.2%) than males (18.1%); and

WHEREAS, all Americans face challenges in life that can impact their mental health, whether it is due to the loss of a loved one, socioeconomics circumstances and especially during a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, health care provider, organization and citizen share the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention and treatment efforts; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Psychiatrist Association Mental Health Stigma often comes from lack of understanding or fear. Inaccurate or misleading media representations of mental illness contribute to both those factors. A review of studies on stigma shows that while the public may accept the medical or genetic nature of a mental health disorder and the need for treatment, many people still have a negative view of those with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, changing the stigma on Mental Health begins with changing the language of how mental health issues are presented.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Cook County declares the month of May as *Mental* Health and Wellness Month in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We establish May, 19th as Mental Health and Wellness Awareness Day in Cook County, where we encourage Cook County to continue to focus on promoting mental

wellness and providing mental wellness services in the form of meditation, stress reduction and healthy eating classes for employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby supports the efforts to raise awareness of mental health and wellness issues and the importance of maintaining one's mental state and also encourages Cook County Commissioners and all governmental agencies to conduct and promote activities as it relates to mental health and wellness month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a suitable copy of this resolution is spread upon the official proceedings of this honorable body.

[23-2585](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, MONICA GORDON, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, KEVIN B. MORRISON and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS SECOND CHANCE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, redemption and second chances are values of the United States; and

WHEREAS, every individual is endowed with human dignity and value; and

WHEREAS, millions of citizens of the United States have a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of individuals return to their communities from Federal and States prisons annually; and

WHEREAS, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. proclaimed the month of April 2023 as Second Chance Month; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Danny K. Davis IL-7 was the chief sponsor of the 2nd chance act and championing its funding, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Dennis Deer 2nd District served as Co-Chair of the 7th Congressional Districts criminal justice taskforce which initiated the grassroots effort for passage of the Second Chance Act, and

WHEREAS, individuals returning from Federal and State prisons have paid their debt for committing crimes but still face significant legal and societal barriers; and

WHEREAS, individuals returning to their communities from Federal and State prisons gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful re-entry and has been shown to reduce

future criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who have been incarcerated struggle to find employment because of collateral consequences, which are often not directly related to the offenses the individuals committed or any proven public safety benefit; and

WHEREAS, many states have laws that prohibit an individual with a criminal record from working in certain industries or obtaining professional licenses; and

WHEREAS, in addition to employment, education has also been shown to be significant predictor of successful reentry for individuals returning from Federal and State prisons; and

WHEREAS, an individual who has been convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Cook County Government hereby acknowledges the month of April as Second Chance Month in Cook County. In addition, hereby encourage during the month of April Cook County Commissioners, Judicial Advisory Council, and County Departments to hold events and town hall meetings in Cook County in support of April being Designated Second Chance Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official records of this honorable body

[23-2586](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, MONICA GORDON, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, KEVIN B. MORRISON and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING JACK LYNCH FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, AND DEDICATION TO SAVING LIVES IN HIS CAREER

WHEREAS, Jack Lynch builds and strengthens Gift of Hope's relationships with community and civic group leaders to increase organ and tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, he is a strategic advisor to the President/CEO and Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network's senior leadership team on community relations, minority relations and organ, eye and tissue donation awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, he served as the organization's director of community affairs, Lynch established and maintained relationships and developed initiatives to create a positive culture around organ, eye and tissue donation in community groups and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lynch established Gift of Hope's African American Task Force of more than 100 volunteers who coordinate donor education and programs in African American communities throughout Gift of Hope's donation service area; and

WHEREAS, before joining the organization in 1987, Lynch was a manager of hospital development for Sandoz Pharmaceuticals in Hanover, N.J, and attended City Colleges of Chicago and Chicago State University, and participated in the pre-med program at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lynch was recognized as a thought leader in addressing donation and education in the African American community, Lynch was appointed by former Illinois Gov. George Ryan to chair the Illinois Department of Public Health Organ Donation Committee in 1993. He currently leads work to develop a new Gift of Hope facility in Chicago's South Side Chatham community; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lynch served on Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's Organ Donation Advisory Board. In addition to speaking at hospitals and organ transplant programs across the country, he is regularly interviewed by local, regional, and national media on the need for and importance of minority organ, eye and tissue donation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer of the 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, do hereby recognized Jack Lynch for his outstanding leadership, commitment, and dedication to saving lives in his career and being a champion for organ donation, and so wish Jack Lynch every continued success in his future endeavors.

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

[23-2595](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING APRIL 30TH, 2023 AS *DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS* (CHILDREN'S DAY)

WHEREAS, Children are our future with inalienable rights. It is the responsibility of society to ensure their rights are met; and

WHEREAS, Children are citizens of the world who need emotional and physical stability and should not, ordinarily be separated from their parents and family; and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to an education, to enjoy a social life, and build their own futures; and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to food so that they will not suffer from malnutrition and die from hunger; and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to health, to be protected from illness, and to grow and become healthy adults; and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to safe drinking water and proper sanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to identity by having a surname, first name, and a nationality, and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to freedom by being able to express themselves, to have opinions, to have access to information, and to participate in decisions that affect their lives; and

WHEREAS, Children have the right to protection and to live in a secure and caring environment which preserves the child's well-being' and

WHEREAS, all the above rights are also rights given to children who have obtained Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status; and

WHEREAS, the United States should have an established national date to give voice to children with a day of their own

WHEREAS, April 30, 2023, *Día de Niño* (Children's Day) recognizes the achievements and contributions of children; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes Sunday, April 30th, 2023, as the ***DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS (CHILDREN'S DAY)***.

[23-2598](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND APRIL 26th, 2023, AS "DENIM DAY"

WHEREAS, April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, according to National statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States of America (U.S.) have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that nearly 1 in 4 women

and 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) on average, there are 433,648 victims of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States of America (U.S.), and;

WHEREAS, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) data assures that every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, according to RAINN: only 310 of every 1,000 rapes are reported, only 50 of every 1,000 rapes lead to arrest, and only 25 of every 1,000 rapes lead to conviction in the United States of America (U.S.); and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care has reported a significant worldwide increase in sexual violence cases since the surge of the Covid-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, for the past 24 years, Peace Over Violence, a sexual and domestic violence prevention center headquartered in Los Angeles, California, has hosted the Denim Day campaign on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the Denim Day story begins in Italy in 1992, when an 18-year-old girl was raped by the 45-year-old driving instructor who was taking her on her very first driving lesson. He took her to an isolated road, pulled her out of the car, removed her jeans and raped her; and

WHEREAS, after she reported the rape, the perpetrator was arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of rape and sentenced to jail; and

WHEREAS, years later, that conviction was overturned by the Italian Supreme Court using the “jeans alibi” - according to the justices, the woman was wearing tight jeans, therefore she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent; and

WHEREAS, the following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the survivor; and

WHEREAS, the Denim Day campaign became official in the United States of America (U.S.) in 1999 where people wore denim in solidarity with women in the Italian Parliament; and

WHEREAS, since then, wearing jeans or other denim apparel on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive manners about sexual harassment, abuse, assault and rape; and

WHEREAS, in this sexual violence prevention and education campaign, community members, elected officials, businesses and students are asked to make a social statement by wearing denim on this day as a visible protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes Wednesday, April 26, 2023, as the 24th Annual Denim Day and uses this opportunity to bring awareness to this issue and advocacy for survivors.

[23-2599](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS/ACCEPTANCE MONTH

WHEREAS, April is National Autism Awareness Month which raises awareness for autism and Asperger's syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the Autism Society was founded in 1965 by Bernard Rimland and remains one of the few grassroots organizations in the autistic community; and

WHEREAS, National Autism Awareness Month began in 1972 as National Autistic Children's Week. The Autism Society founded the event to increase awareness, advocate awareness, and spark change in schools, communities, medical facilities, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the month-long observance takes place during World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), celebrated each year on April 2nd which was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Autism Awareness Month was renamed Autism Acceptance Month to foster acceptance and ignite change; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings, and form relationships with others; and

WHEREAS, according to World Health Organization (WHO), about one in 270 people in the world has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) which is a group of developmental disabilities that causes challenges in many areas of one's life; and

WHEREAS, autism has become the fastest growing diagnosis in the world, with the diagnosis rate of children with autism increasing from 1 in every 2000 children in the 1970's and 1980's to 1 in every 68 children today; and

WHEREAS, some of the profoundly affected areas include social, communication, and behavior. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are usually nonverbal, or they have restricted or repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, although the autism spectrum is vast, some of the common signs in autistic individuals are repetitive behaviors, hyperactivity, and extreme sensitivity to light, touch, and sound; and

WHEREAS, the blue “Forget-me-not” flower represents autism to raise awareness; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes the Month of April as Autism Awareness/Acceptance month.

[23-2601](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING GADS HILL CENTER 125TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, since 1898, Gads Hill Center has created opportunities for children and their families to build a better life through education, access to resources and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Gads Hill Center supports working families through comprehensive programs and services that connect children and families to resources that meet their educational, employment, and health-related goals; and

WHEREAS, Gads Hill Center works with more than 4,500 children across Chicago by providing the following high-quality accredited programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Education program empowers parents to be their children's first teachers with early childhood development resources including comprehensive educational and developmental services; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services program provides out-of-school programs to children from kindergarten through sixth grade, mentoring to at-risk youth from sixth through eighth grade, and STEM-focused academic enrichment and college preparatory programs to high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Family Support and Community Services connects children and families to resources that meet their educational, job and health-related goals with programs such as the Family Engagement, Healthy Moves Program and Play Streets program; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Services program enhances academic success, social-emotional development and well-being through individualized support, access to mental health resources and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, their values consist of valuing children and families and their ability to learn, lead, grow and

positively change their futures, transformational power of education, strength of families and engagement of communities, as well as their staff and supporters; and

WHEREAS, some of their accreditations and awards consist of the, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), ExcelRate Illinois' Gold Circle of Quality (North Lawndale site) Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative and United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, Education Impact Award; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and honor the 125th Anniversary of Gads Hill Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy of this resolution is presented to Gads Hill Center in honor of its outstanding achievements and its 125th anniversary.

[23-2624](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE SAFER FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, In 1972, the Safer Foundation opened its doors in Chicago as an advocate for former offenders in their efforts to secure employment after being released from prison or jail; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation (SF) will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 29th; and

WHEREAS, Bernie Curran and Gus Wilhelmy established the Safer Foundation in Chicago Illinois; and

WHEREAS, since their inception their mission has been to pave that road with stabilizing support, employment, education, and advocacy that empower justice-involved individuals to achieve their true potential; and

WHEREAS, whether someone is newly released, currently incarcerated, or has been back in society for an extended time, the Safer Foundation provides job readiness and placement program that fits their unique goals, qualifications, and skillset; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation can help with immediate employment by providing immediate work and skills training such as strengthening soft skills, financial support for entry-level certifications, post-training employment, early expungement/record sealing, support throughout the first nine months of employment or entry-level training and occupations; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation also offers long term employment such as Construction Training and

Occupations Reconstruction Technology Partners (RTP) which is their design-build social enterprise that provides hands-on training and real-world experience in the field of construction; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation also offers career building. If someone is looking to join healthcare, transportation, or construction fields with a higher-paying occupation, there's the Safer Demand Skills Collaborative (SDSC) which offers training, licensing, and certifications for clients across healthcare, transportation, construction, hospitality, and technology industries; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation offers Educational Services such as youth HSED Programs which is an eight-week program, enables youth ages 16 to 24 to earn their High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) and gain valuable life skills offered to participants with or without a conviction record; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation also offers an Adult HSED and Tutoring Programs which provides instruction in math, writing, and reading to prepare you to earn your HSED; and

WHEREAS, current detainees of the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC) have the unique opportunity to earn their HSED while incarcerated through the PACE Institute program; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation offers Immediate Re Entry Training and Occupations which strengthening soft skills, raised reading and math levels to pass entry exams, financial support for entry-level certifications, post-training employment, early expungement/record sealing, and support throughout the first nine months of employment; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation also offers young adult training and occupations which supports ages 18-24 with vocational training, tools, and resources for education and employment opportunities through I-MATTER which is a three-year program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation provide immediate help services, which include help with Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Support and a State ID; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation provide behavioral health services, such as Anger Management Counseling, Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder Counseling; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation also provide Legal Assistance such as Record Sealing which helps get your record clear to aid in employment and housing searches; and

WHEREAS, the Safer Foundation provides Housing Support such as Permanent Supportive Housing, Subsidized Housing and Affordable Housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and honor the 50th Anniversary of the Safer Foundation; and

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

and that a suitable copy of this resolution is presented to the Safer Foundation in honor of its outstanding achievements and its 50th anniversary.

[23-2625](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND RECOGNIZING APRIL 7TH AS WORLD HEALTH DAY

WHEREAS, April 7th is known as World Health Day; and

WHEREAS, the theme for World Health day will focus on Health for All; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) will observe its 75th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, countries of the world came together and founded WHO to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, World Health Organization is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable and champions global efforts to achieve better health for all; and

WHEREAS, WHO's 75th anniversary year is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved quality of life during the last seven decades; and

WHEREAS, WHO plays an essential role supporting countries to prepare for, detect, respond to and recover from health emergencies, including pandemics, disease outbreaks, natural disasters and humanitarian crises; and

WHEREAS, There are six key programmatic divisions at the WHO headquarters that drive action towards the Triple Billion targets; and

WHEREAS, they consist of Universal Health Coverage, Health Emergency Programme, Access to Medicines and Health Products, Antimicrobial Resistance, Science Division as well as Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact; and

WHEREAS, WHO headquarters held about 134 media briefings as well as had 41 member state briefings and information sessions; and

WHEREAS, during COVID-19, WHO played a crucial role in making sure individuals were safe and aware of what was going on; and

WHEREAS, During COVID-19 WHO made sure to issue COVID-19 strategic preparedness and Response plan; and

WHEREAS, Provided accurate information which exploded dangerous myths; and,

WHEREAS, they ensured vital supplies reached frontline health workers where they shipped more than 2 million items of personal protective equipment to 133 countries; and,

WHEREAS, they trained and mobilized health workers as well during this process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes Friday, April 7th, 2023, as World Health Day and World Health Organization 75th Anniversary

[23-2614](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR

WHEREAS, the day of April 1 annually is celebrated as the Assyrian New Year, also known as Kha b'Nissan or Akitu. The Assyrian New Year is not only the first day of the new year, but also marks the start of spring and serves as a symbol of revival; and

WHEREAS, according to the Assyrian Policy Institute, more than 600,000 Assyrian Americans live in the United States. Illinois is home to more than 80,000 Assyrian Americans, the vast majority of whom live in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Assyrians are a transnational ethnic group indigenous to parts of northern Iraq, northwestern Iran, southeastern Turkey, and northeast Syria. They form a distinctive community, united through ethnicity, language, and a culture that constitutes one of the oldest continuous traditions in the world. In their various countries of origin, the governing authorities historically infringed on the cultural and linguistic rights of Assyrians and prohibited public celebrations of the Assyrian New Year; and

WHEREAS, Assyrians began emigrating to Illinois in the late 1800s. The earliest immigrants settled in the River North area. Their population later moved north, first to Lincoln Park and Lake View and later to Uptown and Edgewater. Migration and resettlement of Assyrians from Iraq and Syria intensified in recent years due to the conflict and sectarian violence targeting Assyrians culminating with the rise of ISIS in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Assyrian Americans work for and contribute to Cook County in numerous ways. At Cook

County we are proud to have Assyrian American public servants including Board of Commissioners Staff, Atour Sargon and Ted Mason and previous Bureau Chief John Yonan, and a growing number of local Assyrian American local elected officials across the state.

WHEREAS, Assyrians have also made important contributions to the social and cultural fabric of our communities. The iconic London House in Chicago was designed by Assyrian American architect Eva Toma. The Pentagon Memorial honoring 9/11 victims in Washington, D.C. was built by Abe Yousif, an Assyrian American from Elk Grove Village. Chicago's famous Pizza Puff was invented by Elisha Shabaz, an Assyrian American who immigrated to the U.S. from Iran in 1898; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board recognizes the cultural importance and history surrounding the observance of the Assyrian New Year for Assyrian-Americans and joins the Assyrian-American community across Illinois in celebrating year 6773 of the Assyrian New Year; and

WHEREAS, Assyrian Americans are a part of the Middle Eastern and North African MENA community. Cook County is working to advance inclusion around the collection of MENA American data; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County expresses its appreciation for the vibrancy, tenacity, and contributions of the Assyrian American community and wishes all who observe this holiday a healthy and prosperous new year.

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 Assyrian Policy Institute and The Assyrian National Council of Illinois.

[23-2617](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING EDUCATION AND SHARING DAY

WHEREAS, the basis for the continuity of any society is education; and in the county of Cook the education of our youth is a priority; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve its highest goals, education must not only impart knowledge but also teach the students how to live, forming and strengthening their moral character to make a better life for themselves as individuals and for society as a whole; imparting moral and ethical values that have been the bedrock of society since the dawn of civilization; and

WHEREAS, a global spiritual leader and leading advocate for the advancement of education, the Rebbe,

Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, stressed that a moral and ethical education empowers every individual to develop their full potential in making the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, such an education can nurture the unity of diverse peoples through encouraging increased acts of goodness and kindness, imbued with the awareness that even a single positive act of an individual can change the world and usher in an era of global peace, when there will "be peace within your walls, serenity within your mansions" (Psalms 122); and

WHEREAS, "Education & Sharing Day" is observed each year on the Rebbe's birthday in recognition of his outstanding and lasting contributions toward the improvement of education, morality, and acts of charity around the world; a day to pause and reflect on our responsibility to ensure our youth have the foundation necessary to lead lives rich in purpose and fulfillment through service and good works; and

WHEREAS, April 2, 2023, will mark 121 years since the Rebbe's birth, capping a year in which thousands of new institutions and initiatives were launched throughout the world in tribute to this celebration; and

WHEREAS, this year has an added significance as a year of "Hakhel," a biblical event of unity, education and spiritual growth emphasizing how every person is crucial to perfecting the world;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby honor Sunday, April 2, 2023, as: EDUCATION AND SHARING DAY in the County of Cook and call upon everyone to work together to create a better, brighter, and more promising future for all.

[23-2616](#)

Sponsored by: BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF JULIA MAE HUDSON MONTGOMERY

WHEREAS, Julia Mae Hudson Montgomery migrated to Chicago, IL along with family from Canton Mississippi. She attended Chicago Public Schools. Julia graduated from the prestigious Dunbar Vocational High School in 1957 as a cosmetologist, after premier training in Beauty Culture; and

WHEREAS, Her entrepreneur spirit and her inherent culinary ability brought about her catering business, "Taste N See" Catering Service. Her business allowed Julia's catering to serve great people in the Chicago Community such as, the Late Dr. Herbert D. Odom, Rev. Jessie Lewis Jackson, and Alvin J. Boutte, CEO of Independence Bank; and

WHEREAS, Julia's service to her Almighty God was almost always through helping others. She served at the Pleasant Gift M.B. Church for over 50 years, organized by her Maternal Grandfather Rev.

Clarence L. Buckner. Her youth ministry included her touching the many lives of young people by taking them skating and traveling to Progressive National Baptist Convention throughout the nation. Singing in the choir, fundraising, church kitchen and Pastoral Care just to name a few; and

WHEREAS,, She eventually became First Lady of True Light Baptist Church, working alongside of her husband, the late Rev. Douglas Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Julia's love and passion for family, caused her to support siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins through education and career endeavors. Last but not least, being the matriarch of the Johnson Buckner Hudson Wiggins(JBHW) Family Reunion was her greatest passion. Keeping the family together and traveling around the country annually hosted by families in various states; and

WHEREAS, Julia was a great citizen of Chicago, IL and the United States of America. Her walk with Christ Jesus and her prayer life endured to the end of her life; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Cook County Board of Commissioners and President Preckwinkle hereby hold their reverence in honor of the life of Julia Mae Hudson Montgomery as they offer their deepest condolences to her friends, family, and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Julia Mae Hudson Montgomery as an honorable expression of appreciation for her life and work.

[23-2629](#)

Sponsored by: BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE COMMUNITY WORK OF JEROME ALTMAN OF EXODUS INSTITUTE AND EXODUS DRUM AND BUGLE CORP.

WHEREAS, In 2002, Jerome Altman and Ed James had an idea to start a youth organization. Their personal journey was a typical one of Black men in this country. These two travelled through and out of hardships, commonplace in this society's marginalized communities. It has been their strength of character, curious mind, and iron will, paired with deep compassion for their fellow man, that created and kept alive a small group, which became the Exodus Drum and Bugle Corps.

WHEREAS , Mr. Jerome Altman who is the Executive Director of Exodus Institute and Exodus Drum and Bugle Corp. on the Westside of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Altman has had a vision to increase youth awareness for education as a means for optimizing their opportunities to having a greater career. He has done this by developing their skills, talents, and knowledge by partnering with community stakeholders within the Chicago community; and

WHEARAS, MR. Altman seeks to provide at-risk youth with social, educational, physical, cultural and spiritual support through the access of various services. Exodus' projects partner with schools, churches, Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services and other youth centers; and

WHEARAS, It is Mr. Altman's mission to prevent youth and young adults from systemic institutionalized incarceration and becoming part of the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Altman has trained more than 600 youth in the Arts. He has just been approved for a grant to recruit more youth; and

WHEARAS, Mr. Altman's organization Exodus has been in the community for many years participating in parades and communities event; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners recognize his exemplary work and express to him sincerest thanks and appreciation for his many contributions to his community and to the lives of young people on the Westside; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a ceremonial copy of this resolution be tendered to Mr. Jerome Altman, 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.