



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

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

Consent Agenda

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 10:00 AM

Second Set - Issued on: 3-13-2024

[24-2061](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY DECLARES MARCH 1, 2024, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024, AS NATIONAL READING MONTH

WHEREAS, March is National Reading Month, a celebration that encourages reading for all ages and promotes reading as a key feature for learning, social, and professional development; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is committed to furthering the learning and development of all its residents no matter their language, age, or creed; and

WHEREAS, Albert Whitman & Company, an independent children’s book publisher and proud partner of Cook County’s Project Rainbow, which has provided books, reading material, and educational videos for Cook County residents; and

WHEREAS, Albert Whitman & Company was founded more than a century ago with a goal to make good books that kids want to read, and today continues this tradition, guided by a deeper mission to create stories that also educate and empower children; and

WHEREAS, all Albert Whitman & Company books treat their readers in a caring and respectful manner, helping them to grow intellectually and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, Cook County’s Project Rainbow is an initiative that addresses learning loss magnified by COVID-19 with the creation of free early childhood and family programming through the County TV station and a new mobile app, producing new video content, or repurposing existing informative and educational content, to be used by children and families; and

WHEREAS, through its partnership with Project Rainbow, Albert Whitman & Company’s library of high-quality content can serve as a learning bridge between classroom and home and help kids develop a lifelong love of reading; and

WHEREAS, Project Rainbow app users will have access to stories from some of Albert Whitman & Company’s most popular collections, including civics, financial literacy, women’s history, and more; and

WHEREAS, National Reading Month is an annual month of awareness, recognition, and celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby declare March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, and the first business week in March as National Reading Month going forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to the State of Illinois.

[24-2075](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COOK COUNTY INTERNATIONAL TRADE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM’S SISTER COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND COUNTY CORK, IRELAND

WHEREAS, in 1995 Cook County launched the International Trade Partnership Program to promote trade and investment between Cook County and strategic partner regions around the world, to foster bi-lateral trade and provide linkages between businesses locally and overseas; and

WHEREAS, in March 1998 a delegation from County Cork, Ireland made their first visit to Cook County, Illinois to participate in a series of government, business and cultural events; and

WHEREAS, in July 1999 a delegation of government and business leaders from Cook County, Illinois traveled to Cork County, Ireland for an economic, educational, and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 1999, at a Cork County Council meeting, the Cook County, Illinois - County Cork, Ireland, Sister County Partnership Agreement was signed; and

WHEREAS, in October 2000 the Partners with Ireland Committee was established to facilitate the International Trade Partnership Program with regions in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Cook County and County Cork have worked together over the past 25 years to develop and strengthen relations between companies, institutions, organizations, and individual entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, government officials representing Cook County and Cork County, along with business leaders from both regions have since been working to promote bi-lateral trade in the areas of bio-technology, information technology, small business enterprises and tourism; and

WHEREAS, this Sister County Partnership has been responsible for numerous successful ventures over the past 25 years including:

- the establishment of a PhD level student exchange program between the Illinois Institute of

Technology (IIT) and the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT),

- a cooperative agreement between leading technology associations in both regions to provide pro-bono office space to entrepreneurs seeking to establish a presence in Cook County or County Cork,
- the sponsorship a cultural, outdoor adventure and team building program in Ireland for residents of Cook County's Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than five million residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Sister County Partnership between Cook County, Illinois and County Cork, Ireland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to *Councillor Frank O'Flynn, Mayor of the County of Cork* and the Cork County Council in recognition of our continued partnership.

[24-2052](#)

Sponsored by: FRANK J. AGUILAR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING DEBRA FIORITO AS THE 16TH DISTRICT'S 2024 PEGGY A. MONTES UNSUNG HEROINE AWARD WINNER

WHEREAS, March is Women's History Month in Cook County, a time to celebrate the contributions of women, and a time to reflect and show gratitude for the impact they have made throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners knows that it is appropriate to honor the contributions of our women residents, particularly in the month of March; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar selects Debra Fiorito to be the 16th District's 2024 Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award Winner because Mrs. Fiorito exemplifies all the qualities that make her a pillar in her community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fiorito is a person worthy of recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fiorito was born in Franklin Park and has lived in Leyden Township for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fiorito is a lifelong public servant and community leader who began her community involvement by organizing local moms from the neighborhood to revitalize an area on Mannheim Road by

successfully advocating for the removal of an adult entertainment establishment; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fiorito, inspired by the collective power of women and community organizing, joined the Parent Teacher Association and raised significant funding for local school programs. Shortly after, Mrs. Fiorito was appointed to The Leyden Credit Union Board where she served for four years; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mrs. Fiorito was elected as Village Clerk of Franklin Park as the first woman to serve in the position and went on to serve two consecutive terms. During this period, she became a lead fundraiser for the Leyden Bears Football team, and helped the facilities establish the first concession stand and other vital resources; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fiorito served as President of the Women's Republican Organization of Leyden Township for 12 years, hosting various fundraisers for local students to receive scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fiorito has dedicated her life to educational and family initiatives, all while raising three children, and continues to stay involved as a Lions Club Member and Appointee for the Redevelopment of Mannheim Road, a local revitalization project; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fiorito has worked closely with local elected officials to bring more resources to her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fiorito continues to inspire women to pursue a career in public services and community organizing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fiorito has lived her life full of grace, humility, and a desire to help the residents of her community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby honor and celebrate Debra Fiorito and her life's work in March 2024.

[24-1978](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING WORLD DOULA DAY AND DOULA WEEK IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, March 22, 2024, marks the globally recognized World Doula Day, coinciding with the commencement of Doula Week; and

WHEREAS, the observance of World Doula Day and Doula Week serves as a poignant reminder of the invaluable contributions made by doulas worldwide, recognizing their unwavering dedication to supporting

women, newborns, and families during the profound journey of childbirth and the postpartum period; and

WHEREAS, doulas play an instrumental role in fostering the physiological, social, emotional, and psychological well-being of individuals and families, offering guidance, advocacy, and compassionate care throughout the birthing process and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in Cook County we underscore the significance of acknowledging and celebrating the tireless efforts of doulas, emphasizing the importance of empowering these essential caregivers who enhance the childbirth experience and promote holistic health outcomes for mothers, infants, and families; and

WHEREAS, Doula Week provides a platform to raise awareness, honor the legacy, and highlight the pivotal role of doulas in advocating for informed decision-making, maternal autonomy, and inclusive support systems within diverse communities worldwide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this esteemed body in conjunction with World Doula Day and World Doula Week hereby recognizes and commemorates March 22, 2024, as Doula Day and March 22nd - March 28th as Doula Week in Cook County and extends heartfelt appreciation to all doulas in Cook County and across the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body encourages individuals, organizations, and communities to actively participate in commemorating World Doula Day and Doula Week, acknowledging the profound impact of doulas in nurturing positive birth experiences, fostering maternal-infant bonding, and promoting the well-being of families across the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body as a testament to our collective commitment to honoring and uplifting the vital contributions of doulas in creating a more compassionate and equitable society.

[24-2012](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING OAK FOREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RYAN LIPSETT IN CONJUNCTION WITH WORLD TEEN MENTAL HEALTH DAY

WHEREAS, March 2nd is World Teen Mental Wellness Day, established in 2020, as a time to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by school-age children and to normalize conversations and dismantle stigmas around teen mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Psychological Association, Gen Z has the worst mental health of any generation, and the surgeon general went as far as to declare a mental health crisis for teens in the

aftermath of the pandemic and the new stressors and challenges associated with it; and

WHEREAS, in the 10 years leading up to the pandemic, feelings of persistent sadness and hopelessness as well as suicidal thoughts and behaviors increased by about 40% among young people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and rates were higher among girls and teens identifying as LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS, mental health struggles are unfortunately common in teens, making up 16% of disease and injuries in people aged 10 to 19, and mental health issues typically start from around 14 years of age and often go undiagnosed and untreated; and

WHEREAS, suicide and depression are some of the leading causes of death among teens, and can even lead to other struggles such as substance abuse as they grow older, and 1 in 10 young adults has suffered from a period of major depression; and

WHEREAS, despite these alarming numbers, teens are dedicated to making a difference, with 64 percent of Gen Z saying they want to achieve a healthier lifestyle for overall happiness, including a stronger self-care routine and 94 percent consider mental health very important to their well-being; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness about mental health and the importance of self-care can help improve an entire generation's mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of World Youth Mental Wellness Day on March 2nd, Creative Visions launched its inaugural Mental Health Youth Advisory Committee to support its #CreateConnectCare campaign, which is focused on promoting mental health awareness for youth through storytelling and creative expression; and

WHEREAS, one such teen dedicated to making a difference is Oak Forest High School Junior Ryan Lipsett, who has been named to the Creative Visions Mental Health Youth Advisory Committee, an elite committee composed of teens from all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, the committee is made up of diverse and passionate young leaders who will play a crucial role in shaping the campaign's direction and ensuring its initiatives resonate with the needs and experiences of their peers; and

WHEREAS, their work will provide invaluable guidance and insights for the initiative that empowers youth to explore mental health and well-being through art, music, writing, filmmaking, and other creative mediums to raise awareness, reduce stigma, build connections, and promote care for themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Lipsett, Class of 2025 at Oak Forest High School, will be leading Mental Health awareness engagement activities and a collaborative Mental Health project in the Oak Forest community; and

WHEREAS, Ryan is passionate about advocating for mental health wellness for his fellow teens, which motivated him to apply for the committee; and

WHEREAS, Ryan has already had one meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee and looks forward to more of them, and getting to work in a positive way towards teens and mental health; and

WHEREAS, Lipsett believes fellow teens don't reach out for help because they are comparing themselves to social media peers whom they perceive as leading "happy" lives, in comparison to the reality of their own as well as the stigma of having mental health struggles; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners wish to bring awareness to the teen mental health crisis and also honor and congratulate Ryan Lipsett for his willingness to serve and improve the well-being of his peers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners proudly congratulate and honor Ryan Lipsett on becoming a member of the Creative Visions Mental Health Youth Advisory Committee and thank him for his leadership and service to the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conjunction with World Teen Mental Health Day, this Honorable Body wishes to declare March 2nd, 2024 as World Teen Mental Health Day in Cook County; and

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

[24-2035](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS ON WINNING THE 2024 IHSA 4A BOYS STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

WHEREAS, the Homewood-Flossmoor Vikings won the IHSA Class 4A Boys State Basketball Championship on March 9, 2024, in Champaign, IL; and

WHEREAS, the Vikings triumphed over the Normal Community High School Ironmen 60-48 securing their 1st ever State Basketball Championship; and

WHEREAS, this year's team was led by Gianni Cobb, Bryce Heard and Mac Hagemaster, who

transferred in from other schools to play for the Vikings, and teamed with senior Carson Brownfield and junior Jayden Tyler to create one of the state's most talented teams; and

WHEREAS, rounding out the team was Caleb Chavers, Myles Ellis, Ethan Howard, Aiden Derose, Kyle Polk, Gakobie McNeal, Dominic Pangallo, Ryan Clemens, Daveon Myles, and Jameon Wright; and

WHEREAS, second year Head Coach Jamere Dismukes was tasked with finding a way to mold together a talented squad to play together for a common goal of winning a championship; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dismukes and the rest of the H-F coaching staff (Kentrell King, Shea Sumpter, Markus Starks, Dame Trice, Kevin Dillard, Desmond Blocker and Mark Collins) did just that and had so much confidence in this group of young men that Coach Dismukes stated, "This is a special group," "I've been saying it all year. I got a lot of flak for saying it, but I believed it all year."; and

WHEREAS, to get to the Championship Game, the Vikings beat some very talented and highly ranked teams including wins over Curie and New Trier High Schools in the super sectional and semi-final games respectively; and

WHEREAS, in the finals the game was tied at 16 late in the first quarter before H-F went ahead for good with a 9-0 run that featured five points by Heard, and two 3-pointers by Tyler for an 8-0 surge to start the second half that gave the Vikings their biggest lead, 39-23 with 4:52 left in the third quarter. Normal got no closer than seven the rest of the way as Heard and his teammates made history; and

WHEREAS, in the finals, Heard led the Vikings with 21 points and 10 rebounds, Tyler scored 15, and Brownfield added 12 points; and

WHEREAS, the Vikings finished 33-4 to cap a remarkable season and had just two in-state losses, to Bradley-Bourbonnais and Bolingbrook; and

WHEREAS, according to their coaches, the team came together as a family during the year and made history for themselves and the community; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to congratulate the success of these outstanding Homewood-Flossmoor student athletes and their coaches;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby congratulates the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Basketball team for their 2024 IHSA 4A Boys State Basketball Championship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to the team members, coaches, and Principal Clinton Alexander of Homewood-Flossmoor High School as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[24-1998](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CLARITY PARTNERS

WHEREAS, Clarity Partners celebrates 20 years in business, a significant milestone that is marked by meaningful contributions to the community and Clarity's commitment to delivering management and information technology consulting services to public sector agencies across Cook County.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Board of Commissioners has been informed of this occasion by the Honorable Josina Morita, Board Commissioner of 13th District; and

WHEREAS, Clarity Partners was founded in 2004 by David Namkung and Rodney Zech. The intent was to use their big firm prowess from tenures at Accenture and KPMG to build a minority owned business that delivers top tier services to government while growing a local, diverse workforce. In the years since, they have developed a team comprised of over 50% minorities and 45% women creating accessible opportunities in technology for Cook County residents of all backgrounds.

WHEREAS, Clarity Partners has delivered on hundreds of projects over the last 20 years, including providing services for 28 Cook County agencies and elected offices. Clarity is now executing projects nationally, which in turn brings employment and revenue back to Cook County, thereby helping to grow the County's taxbase.

WHEREAS, Clarity Partners has received over 120 awards for service delivery and numerous awards for culture and growth, including as a 'Top Workplace' by the Chicago Tribune for the last 7 years running, a Crain's Chicago Business 'Best Place to Work' three times, a 2-time Crain's 'Fast 50' recipient, and a 7-time Inc. 5000 recipient as one of the fastest growing companies in America.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the President and members of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, gathered here this fourteenth (14) day of March, 2024, do hereby honor Clarity Partners on its 20th anniversary and extend to it our best wishes for further growth and success for another 20 years and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Clarity Partners as a sign of the County's appreciation for the company and its founders' contributions and service.

[24-2013](#)

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, 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 6774 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.

[24-2031](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN CELEBRATION OF WINIFRED NELSON’S 100th BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Winifred “Wynn” Nelson was born in Chicago on March 17, 1924; and

WHEREAS, Wynn recently celebrated her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, she has lived in the Chicago area for most of her life except when she moved across the country with her late ex-husband Chester while he was serving in the military, and now lives at The Vines Senior Home in Elgin; and

WHEREAS, Wynn worked for years as an Office Manager at Clybourn Metal Polishing; and

WHEREAS, Wynn is part of five living generations and is proud to be a mother of two to Cherie and Denise, a grandmother to three, a great-grandmother to eight, and a great-great-grandmother to one; and

WHEREAS, she now spends her time socializing with other residents at The Vines Senior Home, and enjoying arts and crafts; and

WHEREAS, Wynn plans to spend her 100th birthday surrounded by her many family members, and friends;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby join Winifred “Wynn” Nelson in celebrating her 100th birthday; 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 Winifred “Wynn” Nelson.

[24-2032](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING LITTLE CITY DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, for more than 60 years, Little City has gone through constant changes to provide the best services and support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, those services and efforts could not be accomplished without the heroic work of Little City’s Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); and

WHEREAS, from saving lives in emergency response situations, to quarantining with residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and helping those we serve achieve their dreams, DSPs have continued to go above and beyond in recent years despite persistent adversity; and

WHEREAS, their love and dedication to the people they serve is truly inspiring and the reason Little City is such a special place for so many; and

WHEREAS, the hard work Little City’s DSPs do every single day can often be thankless and difficult work; and

WHEREAS, the award is traditionally given to an individual who has made a lasting impact on Little City, Little City shall present all DSPs as the special honorees at the 2024 Little City Gala to celebrate the people who are at the heart of their work and demonstrate how appreciated and important the Direct Support Professionals are to all that Little City continues to do;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and thank the Direct Support Professionals at Little City for all the continued work in their community and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to Little City in recognition of all their Direct Support Professionals’ continual dedication to the people they serve.

[24-2033](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE ZERVAS FAMILY AS THE 2024 VERN CARSON LUMINARY AWARD HONOREES

WHEREAS, each year, the Luminary Award is given to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to furthering Little City's mission throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the Zervas family first came to Little City when Board Member Eleni Bousis, a cousin of the Zervas Family, helped connect George and Dimitra when they were looking for a place where their son Mario could receive the support he needed and opportunities he deserved; and

WHEREAS, after previously trying day programs at other agencies and settings, Mario began at Little City and showed tremendous growth, and the Zervas family knew Little City was the right place for them; and

WHEREAS, since then, the Zervas family has become one of the biggest supporters of Little City, donating hundreds of thousands throughout the years and building up special events like the annual Gala and Little City Invitational into what it is today; and

WHEREAS, the Zervas Family's biggest gift of all came in 2016 when, inspired by Mario's years of success thriving in the adult residential program, they made a major contribution to the Duffey Family Children's Village as they wanted to ensure all families coming to Little City would have even more opportunities in the future; and

WHEREAS, Mario's Home opened in 2019, marking the fourth home in the Duffey Family Children's Village, and has already helped dozens of children experience the dynamic, therapeutic environment that allows them to learn vital life skills and social skills during the crucial development years before they turn 22; and

WHEREAS, the Zervas family's impact on Little City is immeasurable, as the gifts they have given to families who felt lost and overwhelmed just as they did all those years ago will last lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, for all their time, contributions, and continual dedication to Little City's work, the Zervas family was named as Little City's 2024 Vern Carson Luminary Award honorees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its recognition and celebration of the Zervas family on the receipt of this award, and thank them for their continual work in their 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 Little City and the Zervas family in honor of the receipt of this award.

[24-2022](#)

Sponsored by: TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COMMENDING MARION NZINGA STAMPS AND THE SISTERS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THEIR DECADES OF ADVOCACY

WHEREAS, Marion Nzinga Stamps and the Sisters of the Struggle (SOS), comprising Regina Harvey Stewart, Nianna Hickman, JoAnn Barron, Pauline Marshall, Addie Feazell, Polly Triplett, Makeda London, Pauline Marshall, Joyce Flake, Renay Wright, Bobbi Lockhart, Eunice Banks, and Marcia Jones, have demonstrated unwavering dedication to social justice and community empowerment since the 1970s; and,

WHEREAS, the Sisters of the Struggle, based in the Cabrini Green community, emerged as powerful advocates for fair housing and public housing, championing the rights of residents in the face of housing discrimination and inequality; and,

WHEREAS, the SOS played a pivotal role in the historic election of Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington, breaking down racial barriers and paving the way for increased representation in the city's leadership; and,

WHEREAS, the Sisters of the Struggle exhibited exceptional leadership by driving Chicago's first woman Mayor, Jane Byrne, out of Cabrini Green and out of office, showcasing their influence in shaping the political landscape of the city; and,

WHEREAS, the SOS's commitment extended beyond housing advocacy, as they fought for quality education for Chicago students, particularly those from blighted communities, leading to the establishment of the Sojourner Truth School; and,

WHEREAS, the Sisters of the Struggle collaborated with diverse groups from all parts of the city, including Uptown and Humboldt Park, fostering unity and solidarity in the pursuit of social justice; and,

WHEREAS, the SOS's enduring legacy continues to inspire current and future generations to advocate for equity, justice, and the betterment of their communities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, honor and celebrate the impactful legacy of the SOS, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping a more equitable, just, and compassionate Cook County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be archived as a token of the esteem held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.