



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

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

Second Consent Agenda

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 10:00 AM

Issued on: 10/23/2024

[24-5725](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the residents of Cook County, Illinois have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Cook County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11th 2024 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active

service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Cook County that in observance of Operation Green Light, Cook County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th, 2024.

[24-5726](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING VETERANS DAY

WHEREAS, Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally proclaimed a holiday on November 11, 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson to honor the end of World War I; and

WHEREAS, November 11, subsequently declared a legal holiday in 1938, was “dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day”. In 1954, at the urging of veterans organizations, the 1938 Act was amended by replacing Armistice Day with Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, from the Revolutionary War to the present day, the contributions made to the United States of America by her citizen soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who stand in our place to defend the freedoms we enjoy cannot be calculated; and

WHEREAS, the County of Cook has the largest veteran population in this state with over 142,000 veterans; and

WHEREAS, the County of Cook has always honored the immeasurable wartime and peacetime contributions and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Americans still give thanks to veterans for their service on Veterans Day with ceremonies and speeches and at 11 a.m. many Americans observe a moment of silence in remembrance of those who fought and for those who gave their lives to preserve the freedom we now enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the willingness of our citizens who have answered the call to duty to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, in defense of our democratic principles, gives this great Nation continued strength and vitality; and

WHEREAS, even today, members of the military are stationed throughout the world, while their families remain in our communities; and

WHEREAS, families praying for the safe return of loved ones experience everyday life in a very different way than others, as their everyday thoughts and feelings never stray far from those they honor and are proud of for serving this great nation; and

WHEREAS, the willingness of our citizens who have answered the call to duty to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, in defense of our democratic principles; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is a day set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military for their service - in wartime or peacetime; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration of this day is a matter of historic and patriotic significance to all American citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize November 11, 2024 as Veterans Day and ask that on this day of honor all citizens express their gratitude to our veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with respect and gratitude, we salute all of our veterans, remembering “all gave some and some gave all” and devote special attention to those veterans who are sick and disabled, and show them through our actions that we remember and honor them.

[24-5939](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOMAS RICHARD “TOMMY” KALAS

WHEREAS, the passing of Thomas Richard "Tommy" Kalas on September 14, 2024, has deeply saddened his loving family, dear friends, and the community that had the privilege of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 23, 1962, to Thomas F. Kalas and Carol Ann Kalas (nee Burns), Tommy brought into this world a light and joy that would shine brightly through his 62 years of life; and

WHEREAS, Tommy was a devoted husband to Maureen Kalas, a loving father to Marie and Thomas Kalas, and a caring brother to Susan, Gary, and Laura. His family was the cornerstone of his life, receiving his unwavering love and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's community service as a Village Trustee in Berkeley, Illinois, from 1996 to 2003, exemplified his commitment to public service and his natural ability to lead with kindness, resolve, and an ever-present smile; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's passion for sports, particularly coaching softball and basketball, showcased his dedication to mentoring young athletes, fostering in them the principles of teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, his love for improv comedy and music brought joy and laughter to all who had the pleasure of experiencing his performances, whether on stage or during casual gatherings, and his famous pancake breakfasts and paczki celebrations will be remembered as highlights of family and community joy; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's deep loyalty and passion for the Chicago White Sox, reflected in the serendipitous wins that marked his passing, symbolize the joy and heart he brought to all aspects of his life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the family and friends of Thomas Richard "Tommy" Kalas, do hereby acknowledge his profound impact on our lives and on the community. We celebrate his life, his contributions, and the memories he has left us, which will be cherished and honored for generations to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution is offered in deep sorrow and utmost love, as we bid farewell to a remarkable soul. Tommy's journey through life was a beacon of love, laughter, and kindness, and though he will be greatly missed, his legacy will continue to inspire and resonate within all of us; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be preserved as a testament to the life and legacy of Thomas Richard "Tommy" Kalas. His spirit, love, and stories will forever remain in our hearts, guiding and inspiring us; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby honor the life and legacy of Thomas Richard Kalas in October of 2024.

[24-5975](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING DIA DE LOS MUERTOS IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a culturally significant holiday for Mexican Americans, and Chicanos who have built vibrant communities throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Día de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday traditionally celebrated on November 1st and 2nd; and

WHEREAS, the origin of Día de los Muertos comes from the Aztec belief that, once a year, the souls of

the deceased would visit the world of the living for one night, traveling all the way from Mictlán, the underworld; and

WHEREAS, upon dying, a person was believed to travel to Chicunamictlán, the Land of the Dead. Only after getting through nine challenging levels, a journey of several years, could the person's soul finally reach Mictlán, the final resting place; and

WHEREAS, on the Día de Muertos, it's believed that the border between the spirit world and the real world dissolves; and

WHEREAS, during this brief period, the souls of the dead awaken and return to the living world to feast, drink, dance and play music with their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Día de los Muertos is NOT, as is commonly thought, a Mexican version of Halloween, though the two holidays do share some traditions, including costumes and parades; and

WHEREAS, the living family members treat the deceased as honored guests in their celebrations, and leave the deceased's favorite foods and other offerings at gravesites or on the ofrendas built in their homes; and

WHEREAS, ofrendas can be decorated with candles, bright marigolds called cempasuchil alongside food like stacks of tortillas and fruit; and

WHEREAS, in Mexican and Chicano culture, the most prominent symbols related to the Día de los Muertos are calacas (skeletons) and calaveras (sugar skulls); and

WHEREAS, in the early 20th century, the printer and cartoonist José Guadalupe Posada incorporated skeletal figures in his art mocking politicians and commenting on revolutionary politics. His most well-known work, La Calavera Catrina, or Elegant Skull, features a female skeleton adorned with makeup and dressed in fancy clothes. The 1910 etching was intended as a statement about Mexicans adopting European fashions over their own heritage and traditions; and

WHEREAS, La Calavera Catrina was then adopted as one of the most recognizable Día de los Muertos icons; and

WHEREAS, during contemporary Día de los Muertos festivities, people commonly wear skull masks and eat sugar candy molded into the shape of skulls; and

WHEREAS, the pan de ánimas of All Souls Day rituals in Spain is reflected in pan de muerto, the traditional sweet baked good of Día de los Muertos celebrations today; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is home to many Día de los Muertos events, including the ofrenda in the Cook County Lobby, and celebrations throughout Cook County and Chicago, including Cicero, Berwyn, Pilsen,

Little Village and more. These events are supported by Mexican cultural organizations such as the Mexican Civic Society of Illinois, National Museum of Mexican Art, and Cicero Mexican Cultural Committee, and municipalities and organizations throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's Dia de los Muertos exhibit was created by local artists Juan Hernandez and Aracely Ramirez, and show the customs, culture and history of all those who celebrate, and the County Board thanks these artists for their contributions; and

WHEREAS, these celebrations also call on us to care for those in need. It is a call to support our family, friends, neighbors, and to remember and honor their lives and contributions in life and in death; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County understands the significance of Día de los Muertos to the many communities and peoples of Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County honors those who have passed, the lives they lived, and the impact they had on their loved ones; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby celebrate Día de los Muertos in October of 2024.

CELEBRANDO EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS EN EL CONDADO DE COOK

CONSIDERANDO QUE, el Día de los Muertos es una festividad culturalmente significativa para los mexicoamericanos y los chicanos que han construido comunidades vibrantes en todo el Condado de Cook; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, el Día de los Muertos es una festividad mexicana que tradicionalmente se celebra el 1 y 2 de Noviembre; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, el origen del Día de los Muertos proviene de la creencia azteca de que, una vez al año, las almas de los difuntos visitaban el mundo de los vivos por una noche, viajando desde el Mictlán, el inframundo; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, al morir, se creía que una persona viajaba a Chicunamictlán, la Tierra de los Muertos. Solo después de pasar por nueve niveles desafiantes, un viaje de varios años, el alma de la persona finalmente pudo llegar al Mictlán, el lugar de descanso final; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, en el Día de Muertos, se cree que la frontera entre el mundo espiritual y el mundo real se disuelve; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, durante este breve período, las almas de los muertos despiertan y regresan al mundo de los vivos para festejar, beber, bailar y tocar música con sus seres queridos; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, el Día de los Muertos NO es, como comúnmente se piensa, una versión mexicana de Halloween, aunque las dos festividades comparten algunas tradiciones, incluyendo disfraces y desfiles; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, los miembros vivos de la familia tratan al difunto como invitados de honor en sus celebraciones, y dejan las comidas favoritas del difunto y otras ofrendas en las tumbas o en las ofrendas construidas en sus hogares; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, las ofrendas se pueden decorar con velas, caléndulas brillantes llamadas cempasúchil junto con alimentos como montones de tortillas y frutas; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, en la cultura mexicana y chicana, los símbolos más prominentes relacionados con el Día de los Muertos son calacas (esqueletos) y calaveras (calaveras de azúcar); y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, a principios del siglo XX, el impresor y caricaturista José Guadalupe Posada incorporó en su arte figuras esqueléticas burlándose de los políticos y comentando la política revolucionaria. Su obra más conocida, La Calavera Catrina, presenta un esqueleto femenino adornado con maquillaje y vestido con ropas elegantes. El grabado de 1910 pretendía ser una declaración sobre los mexicanos que adoptaban las modas europeas por encima de su propia herencia y tradiciones; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, La Calavera Catrina fue adoptada como uno de los íconos más reconocibles del Día de los Muertos; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, durante las festividades contemporáneas del Día de los Muertos, las personas comúnmente usan máscaras de calaveras y comen dulces de azúcar moldeados en forma de calaveras; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, el pan de ánimas de los rituales del Día de los Fieles Difuntos en España se refleja en el pan de muerto, el tradicional dulce horneado de las celebraciones del Día de los Muertos en la actualidad; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, el Condado de Cook es el hogar de muchos eventos del Día de los Muertos, incluyendo la ofrenda en el Lobby del Condado de Cook, y celebraciones en todo el Condado de Cook y Chicago, incluyendo Cicero, Berwyn, Pilsen, La Villita y más. Estos eventos cuentan con el apoyo de organizaciones culturales mexicanas como la Sociedad Cívica Mexicana de Illinois, el Museo Nacional de Arte Mexicano y el Comité Cultural Mexicano de Cicerón, y municipios y organizaciones en todo el condado de Cook; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, la exposición del Día de los Muertos del Condado de Cook fue creada por los artistas locales Juan Hernández y Aracely Ramírez, y muestra las costumbres, la cultura y la historia de todos los que celebran, y la Junta del Condado agradece a estos artistas por sus contribuciones; y

CONSIDERANDO QUE, estas celebraciones también nos llaman a cuidar a los necesitados. Es un

llamado a apoyar a nuestra familia, amigos, vecinos, y a recordar y honrar sus vidas y contribuciones en la vida y en la muerte; y

AHORA, POR LO TANTO, SE RESUELVE, que el Condado de Cook entiende la importancia del Día de los Muertos para las muchas comunidades y pueblos del Condado de Cook; y

AHORA, POR LO TANTO, SE RESUELVE, que el Condado de Cook honra a aquellos que han fallecido, las vidas que vivieron y el impacto que tuvieron en sus seres queridos; y

AHORA, POR LO TANTO, SE RESUELVE que el Presidente y la Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Cook, en nombre de los residentes del Condado de Cook, celebran el Día de los Muertos en Octubre de 2024.

[24-5960](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY RECOGNIZES OCTOBER 2024 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM)

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is a national campaign dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence in October which Congress declared in 1989; and

WHEREAS, DVAM is a time to uplift the experiences and resilience of survivors, as well as educate and support households experiencing this hardship; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of physical and psychological abuse, threats, intimidation, isolation, or economic coercion used by one person to exert power and control over another person in the context of a dating, familial, or household relationship; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence can happen to anyone at any point in a relationship, and affects people of all ages as well as all racial, ethnic, gender, economic, and religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the US have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner and reported it having a related impact on their functioning; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, women are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence, with 1 in 2 women and 2 in 5 men experiencing sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, an average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, equating to more than 12 million women and men over a single year; and

WHEREAS, about 45 million children witness family violence during their childhood; and

WHEREAS, over 47% of women have encountered contact with sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, a June 2020 report from The Network indicated that the Cook County Sheriff's Office documented 2,458 domestic violence-related incidents in 2019 alone; and

WHEREAS, 47% of American Indian/Alaska Native women, 45.1% of non-Hispanic Black women, 37.3% of non-Hispanic White women, 34.4% of Hispanic women, and 18.3% of Asian-Pacific Islander women have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, noncitizen victims of domestic violence report heightened concerns with accessing law enforcement and services due to uncertainty arising from changing immigration policies and heightened immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ domestic violence victims face barriers unique to their status, such as lack of access to domestic violence shelters, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; and

WHEREAS, the 2015, U.S. Transgender Survey found that over 54% of respondents experienced intimate partner violence, including coercive control and physical harm; and

WHEREAS, according to the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence domestic violence deaths in Illinois rose by 110% last year, with 94 incidents of domestic violence leading to 120 deaths in 2023. That includes 107 homicides and 13 suicides in which the perpetrators took their own lives. That's up from the previous year when 45 incidents led to 57 deaths; and

WHEREAS, Cook County still leads the list with 37 deaths in 2023, compared to 18 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, in Illinois, there were 94 incidents of domestic violence which led to 120 deaths, a significant increase from the 45 incidents of domestic violence that led to 57 deaths reported for 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to the Nation Coalition Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls a day, an average of close to 15 calls every minute; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence has profound and far-reaching effects on mental health for both victims and perpetrators, survivors often experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), suicidal thoughts, anxiety, and depression or can lead to substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, victims of domestic violence who worked with advocates experienced less violence over time, reported higher quality of life and social support, and had less difficulty obtaining community resources over time, according to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need to increase funding for programs aimed at intervening in and preventing domestic violence in Cook County and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Advisory Council is a leader in Cook County's efforts to address violence, including managing a \$5 million Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services Grant initiative made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, Cook County continues to commit resources to victims and survivors of domestic violence with 5 grant awards representing nearly \$900,000 of court-based legal aid and advocacy services before the board for approval this month; and

WHEREAS, additional complementary investments include Cook County's Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction grant initiative, managed by the Cook County Justice Advisory Council, and behavioral health grants under the Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County initiative, managed by Cook County Health; and

WHEREAS, October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the third Thursday of October is nationally recognized as Purple Thursday where people are encouraged to wear purple to increase awareness of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Cook County residents who may be a victim or witness to domestic violence can call or text the Illinois Domestic Violence hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 877-863-6338 (877-TO END DV) or call the National Domestic Hotline at 800-799-7233, both offer assistance in over 200 languages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners commends domestic violence victim advocates, victim service providers, crisis hotline staff, and first responders for their compassionate support of survivors of domestic violence and commits to continuing to raise awareness of domestic violence and the corresponding devastating effects of domestic violence on survivors, families, and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners officially recognizes October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and calls on the Cook County community to reaffirm their commitment to speaking out against domestic violence, assisting victims in finding the help and healing they need, and work collaboratively to end domestic violence in our community.

[24-5962](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY RECOGNIZES OCTOBER 2024 AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness and public knowledge of this disease, especially the importance of early detection of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Breast Cancer is a significant global health issue that affects millions of individuals each year; and

WHEREAS, Breast Cancer is a prevalent and complex disease that arises from uncontrolled growth of cells in the breast tissue. Women are primarily affected by this, but men can also develop this condition; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, 1 in 8 women and 1 in 726 men in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, an estimated 310,720 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S., as well as 56,500 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, an estimated 2,790 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in men in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is about 100 times less common among White men than among White women. It is about 70 times less common among Black men than Black women. As in Black women, Black men with breast cancer tend to have a worse prognosis; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the most common cancer among U.S. women after skin cancer and the leading cause of cancer death in Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 42,250 women and 530 men will die from breast cancer in 2024; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, the 5-year relative survival rate is over 99% for breast cancer diagnosed at a localized stage, when the treatment is typically more effective and less extensive, but drops to 87% for regional-stage and 32% for distant-stage disease; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, approximately 66% of breast cancer cases are diagnosed at a localized stage, before cancer has spread outside of the breast, when it is easiest to treat; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, the death rate for breast cancer among women in the United States has dropped 44% from its peak in 1989 to 2022. That translates to nearly 518,000 fewer breast cancer deaths during this time compared to the number that would have occurred if the peak rate had continued; and

WHEREAS, a woman’s risk of breast cancer nearly doubles if she has a first-degree relative (mother, sister, daughter) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, half of U.S. women who develop breast cancer are 62 years of age or younger when they are diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, younger people, particularly those under age 35 at the time of their original breast cancer diagnosis, face a higher risk of breast cancer recurrence; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic women are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with breast cancer at later stages when it is more difficult to treat; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Association, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women had the fastest increase in breast cancer incidence for both age groups. AAPI women younger than age 50 had a 2.5% increase in incidence a year and AAPI women older than age 50 had a 2.7% increase; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 Black women with breast cancer are diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, which is harder to treat. This is higher than any other racial or ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, women 40 and older should have mammograms every 1 or 2 years; and

WHEREAS, roughly 40 million screening mammograms are performed annually in the United States. In addition, around 1.7 million diagnostic mammograms are performed each year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families; recognizes the courage and strength of the individuals who are battling this terrible disease; and remembers loved ones whose lives have been affected by breast cancer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize October 2024 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and recommit to increasing awareness and care for those impacted by breast cancer in Cook County.

[24-5903](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF DORTHA MAE TOLLIVER

WHEREAS, Dortha Mae Tolliver, who departed this life on September 30, 2024, left behind a legacy of love, faith, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Dortha Mae Tolliver was born on March 10, 1926, in Jackson Parish, Louisiana, to Delitha and John Wesley McKeever, Sr. She was the fifth of 13 siblings and was raised in a close-knit family that cherished faith and community. She accepted Christ at an early age and faithfully attended Asberry Baptist Church with her family; and

WHEREAS, Dortha Mae Tolliver pursued her education with determination, attending Grambling University on a basketball scholarship, an achievement that demonstrated her drive and talent. She later moved to Monroe, Louisiana, where she met and married the love of her life, Claude Lee Tolliver, on December 9, 1949. Their union was blessed with four children: Lorain Tolliver-Smith, Dortha D. Butler, Danny M. Tolliver, and Theresa Fox; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Dortha and Claude relocated to Chicago, Illinois, where they built a life filled with hard work, faith, and dedication. Both found employment in industry-leading factories, contributing to the economic strength of the region. After a workplace injury, Mrs. Dortha became a devoted homemaker, pouring her energy into nurturing her family and supporting the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Dortha Mae Tolliver and her husband Claude became pillars of their Chicago community, providing a stable foundation and support for family members relocating from Louisiana in pursuit of better opportunities. They embraced their Catholic faith, becoming active members of St. Ambrose, St. Leo, and later, St. Sabina parishes, as well as the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, and ensured their children received a strong education through the parochial schools of their respective parishes; and

WHEREAS, in October 2017, Claude and Dortha moved to McKinney, Texas, where they continued their tradition of community and faith, joining One Community Church in Prosper, Texas. Throughout their time together, they traveled widely, shared their love of scripture, and delighted in the fellowship of friends and family. Mrs. Dortha was known for her sweet disposition, daily reading of scripture, and her talent at the card table, particularly in the game of Bid Whist, where she and Claude made a formidable team; and

WHEREAS, Dortha Mae Tolliver remained a faithful partner to her husband Claude for 74 years, a

testament to their enduring love and devotion, until his passing on May 15, 2023. She leaves behind a legacy of unwavering faith, dedication to family, and a life lived in service to others; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dortha Mae Tolliver's life stands as an example of the power of love, faith, and community, inspiring those who knew her and those whose lives she touched. She is now reunited with Claude and other loved ones who have gone before her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, along with the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, extend our deepest condolences to the family of Dortha Mae Tolliver, and express our profound gratitude for the legacy she leaves behind. Her memory will forever be cherished, and her impact will be felt for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dortha Mae Tolliver as a symbol of our respect and admiration for her life of service, faith, and love.

[24-5905](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF KENNETH A. PETERSON, JR.

WHEREAS, Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., a lifelong resident of Steger, Illinois, who was called home unexpectedly on September 16, 2024, at the age of 58; and

WHEREAS, Ken was not just a remarkable figure in his community, but first and foremost, a beloved husband for 26 years to Alice Peterson and a devoted father to their children. His heart overflowed with love for his grandchildren, Mia and Luna, who knew him affectionately as 'Pop.' He was also a loving brother to Kim (Phil) Hantak and Kari Kunkes, and a dedicated son to the late Kenneth A. Peterson, Sr. and Marilyn Peterson; and

WHEREAS, Ken's brilliance and dedication shone early in life, earning a bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 1988 with cum laude honors, and later graduating with magna cum laude distinction in 1991 with a Juris Doctorate from Indiana University. He excelled in his professional career, rising to become a respected Partner at the esteemed law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP in Chicago, where he was admired not only for his legal acumen but for his kindness, professionalism, and unwavering integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ken's spirit of service was felt deeply in his community. As a lifelong resident of Steger,

Ken first served as Village Trustee in 2003, and over the years took on multiple leadership roles including Chairperson of Steger's Economic Development Committee and Chairman of the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners. In 2013, his community entrusted him with the honor of being their 21st Village President, a role he held with pride and in which he proved his steadfast dedication to improving the lives of the residents he served; and

WHEREAS, beyond his professional and civic duties, Ken's greatest joy came from nurturing the younger generation. Whether as a coach in the Steger Basketball Program or through his deep involvement in the Boy Scouts of America-where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1980-Ken exemplified what it means to lead by example. Together with his wife Alice, they nurtured Pack 173, the Cub Scout Pack he had belonged to as a boy, and they went on to form Boy Scout Troop 173, alongside Ken's father, which flourished under their guidance; and

WHEREAS, Ken and Alice's involvement in Steger's Kiwanis Club further demonstrated their shared commitment to the well-being of children and the community at large. Through their selfless service, they stood as beacons of hope, compassion, and community spirit, touching countless lives in ways both seen and unseen; and

WHEREAS, Ken's legacy of kindness, wisdom, and service will continue to shine in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him. His leadership and love leave an indelible mark on his family, friends, and the community he devoted his life to. His presence, though no longer with us, will forever be felt in the spaces he once filled with his warmth and generosity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the President, the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, we stand together in shared sorrow to honor the beautiful life and cherished legacy of Kenneth A. Peterson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this board recognizes and celebrates the life of Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., for his extraordinary service, selflessness, and unwavering love for his family, his community, and his profession; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr. as a lasting tribute to his life of remarkable kindness, leadership, and dedication to the people of Cook County and beyond.

[24-5906](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING WOORI TAEKWONDO & HAPKIDO ACADEMY

WHEREAS, “Woori” means “You and Me” Woori Taekwondo and Hapkido Academy is a community of martial artists with the same goal, that of striving toward excellence in martial arts and in every aspect of our lives; and

WHEREAS, philanthropy holds a special place of importance in the Woori philosophy; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 16th, 2024, Woori Taekwondo and Hapkido Academy is sponsoring its 11th Annual fundraising event to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital entitled “Kick for the Cure” and

WHEREAS, Woori Taekwondo and Hapkido Academy is a team of highly motivated and superbly trained individuals dedicated to the development of character and inner peace characterized by integrity and discipline; and

WHEREAS, in the past 13 years, Woori Taekwondo and Hapkido Academy has raised more than \$152,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to help fight against childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, Kwanpil Kim is the Grand Master of Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy, and instructors Kimberly Malone-Lockett, Elijah Locket, Chris Johnson, and Desmond Nieto will be testing for their 4th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, while instructors Lewis Duhart and Patricia Bullock will be testing for their 4th Degree Black Belt in Hapkido, achieving Master Level. Grand Master Kwanpil Kim, along with the newly appointed Masters and Instructors, will participate in the 500 Board Breaking Challenge to support the fight against cancer, with Woori students-including both Low Belts and Black Belts-also joining this noble cause; and

WHEREAS, all proceeds raised from the sale of “Kick for the Cure” event will go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, along with the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, commend the instructors and students of Woori Taekwondo and Hapkido Academy on its fundraising effort “Kick for the Cure” to benefit St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and official copy be given to Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy in honor of their “Kick for the Cure” event on November 16th, 2024.

[24-5956](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE PREVALENCE AND RISKS OF HAVING HIGH BREAST DENSITY

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related death among women and people assigned female at birth (AFAB) in Western countries. Most people who develop breast cancer don’t have any known risk factors. Breast cancer screening tests are used to find breast cancer in people who have no warning signs or symptoms. Overall, mammography is the most effective screening test used today to find breast cancer in most women and people AFAB, since it can find cancers at an early stage, when the chances of long-term survival are highest; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society recommends mammograms for screening purposes as often as every year starting at age 40 as long as a woman and person AFAB is in good health; and

WHEREAS, dense breast tissue is commonly found during regular mammograms. Dense breasts have more glandular and fibrous tissue and less fatty tissue which can make it difficult to see potential cancer on mammograms since both dense breast tissue and potential cancers appear as a white spot on a mammogram; and

WHEREAS, breast density is divided into four types, ranging from having very little dense tissue (A) to extremely dense tissue (D). About 40% of women and people AFAB have what is considered dense breast tissue (C), and about 10% fall in category D, presenting extremely dense tissue; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the Department of Radiology, University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands, published on December 2022 to the National Library of Medicine: having extremely dense breast tissue (BI-RADS density D) resulted in a 2-fold increased breast cancer risk compared to having scattered dense breast tissue; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a final rule amending the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) regulations requiring that all facilities subject to the MQSA begin including notifications of the breast density assessment classified in one of four categories in

all mammogram reports starting on September 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent interview, Dr. Hilary Marston, the FDA’s chief medical officer, said the notifications will empower women by providing them the information that they need in plain language and communicated clearly to make good decisions for their own health; and

WHEREAS, while traditional mammography is the gold standard for breast cancer screening, women and people AFAB with dense breasts may need some additional tests to help spot cancer early, including digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), or 3D mammography, breast ultrasound or a breast MRI; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of advanced imaging puts it out of reach for many patients who may be uninsured or underinsured or may lack access to the latest technology; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by Anne Marie McCarthy, PhD, a research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, presented at the 2015 American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, Black/African-American women had a significantly higher absolute area breast density compared to white women and when adjusting for age, BMI, and breast cancer risk factors, black women had higher breast density across all measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby commit to amplifying awareness of the risks associated with having higher breast density and further increasing education efforts for all residents of Cook County on the availability of screening and diagnostic testing throughout the Cook County Health and Hospitals System.

[24-5963](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SARAH MAE ANDERSON

WHEREAS, Sarah Mae Anderson was born on May 1, 1934, as the fifth child of eleven, to the Curtis family, blessing the world with her presence for ninety years; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Mae Anderson attended Gentry High School, graduating in 1953, and later pursued further education at Marian Business College, consistently valuing the importance of education; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Mae Anderson accepted Christ early in life, faithfully serving her church community at Greater Whitestone M.B.C. for over forty years as a member of the Pastor’s Aide Club and Secretary, contributing to the spiritual life and well-being of her congregation under the leadership of Reverend B.T.

Blumenberg; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Anderson later became a devoted member of Pleasant Green M.B.C., where she continued her faith journey under the pastorship of her nephew, Reverend Walter Matthews, offering her gifts through gospel singing alongside her beloved sisters, Delia, Odessa, and Laura, enriching all who heard their harmonious voices; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 1953, Sarah united in holy matrimony with Henry C. Anderson, a partnership of love and commitment that spanned over seventy-one years, producing a family of six children, numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, all of whom she adored and poured wisdom and love into throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Sarah retired from the United States Postal Service after thirty years of dedicated service, choosing to spend her retirement caring for her grandchildren, furthering her role as the heart and soul of her family; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2024, at 9:35 pm, Sarah Mae Anderson peacefully transitioned from this life, fulfilling her earthly purpose and joining her parents, her son Kenneth, bonus son Russell, and her beloved siblings in eternal rest; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Mae Anderson's legacy will forever be cherished by her husband Henry, her children Gwendolyn, Beverly, Kimberly, Debra, and Henry Jr. (Chuck), her bonus children, her siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family, and friends; and

WHEREAS, her life exemplified the principles of faith, love, perseverance, and family, serving as a shining example to all who knew her, and leaving a lasting imprint on her community, church, and family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, along with the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, extend our deepest condolences to the family of Sarah Mae Anderson, and express our profound gratitude for her lifelong dedication to her faith, family, and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Sarah Mae Anderson as a symbol of our admiration and respect for her incredible life, and as a reminder that her memory will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

[24-5932](#)

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER PBC AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health estimates that 50,000 to 100,000 people in the United States are affected by Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC), a chronic progressive liver disease characterized by

inflammation and damage to the bile ducts; and

WHEREAS, PBC primarily affects women, with most cases occurring in middle-aged women, highlighting a need for increased awareness, and understanding of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of PBC can significantly impact the quality of life of those affected often leading to fatigue, pruritus (itching), and other debilitating health issues; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and intervention are crucial in managing PBC and improving patient outcomes, yet many individuals remain undiagnosed or misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for PBC; however, the prognosis and treatment are excellent with early detection, and those diagnosed early can live fulfilling lives for decades; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for increased public awareness, education, and research funding to enhance understanding of PBC and to support those living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, various organizations, including the American Liver Foundation and the PBCers Organization, are dedicated to supporting patients, promoting research, and advocating for improved healthcare policies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby acknowledge October as Primary Biliary Cholangitis Awareness Month and honors those in search of a cure and live with disease every day, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners shall support the goals and ideals of Primary Biliary Cholangitis Awareness Month.

[24-5940](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR C & W MARKET

WHEREAS, C & W Market, located at the historic corner of Church Street and Dodge Avenue in Evanston's 5th Ward, celebrates 10 years of addressing food insecurity issues in the community while providing quality products that meet the community's needs; and

WHEREAS, C & W Market was established in 2014 by community leaders Clarence and Wendy Weaver as a family-owned and operated beloved neighborhood market; and

WHEREAS, C & W Market includes an Ice Cream Parlor, a fresh deli, a full service grill and the C &

W Foundation; and

WHEREAS, C & W provides the valued customer with exceptional products and services, while continuously seeking innovative avenues for growth and improvement; and

WHEREAS, C&W Foundation is a food pantry working to eliminate hunger and improve the health and well-being of the community, through access to healthy and nutritious foods, community education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the C & W team serves well over 200 families weekly, with free grocery pick-up & delivery for local senior citizens and community members in need; and

WHEREAS, through donations, C&W Market Foundation addresses food insecurity while helping to develop workforce readiness skills; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and honor Clarence and Wendy Weaver and C & W Market's 10 years of business and service to the community; 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 C & W Market in honor of its 10th Anniversary.

[24-5966](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, STANLEY MOORE, MONICA GORDON and DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE HONORABLE LORI J. WILCOX, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2024, The Honorable Lori Jamae Wilcox passed away, and

WHEREAS, Lori was a dedicated mother, cancer survivor, combat war veteran, Rotarian and a servant leader with service being the core of her life; and

WHEREAS, In March 2018, Lori unseated a 20-year Democratic Committeeman, becoming the second woman and youngest person to hold the Bloom Township Democratic Committeeman seat; and

WHEREAS, Lori was co-chair on the Cook County Democratic Party Outreach Committee; and

WHEREAS, In November 2018 Lori was selected by Governor JB Pritzker to sit on the Veterans Transition Team, and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Lori was selected as an Illinois Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWIL) delegate; and

WHEREAS, In 2011 she became the first elected City Clerk for the City of Chicago Heights and served three terms; and

WHEREAS, Lori was elected by her colleagues to serve on the regional library board and faithfully served on her local library board for over ten years, and

WHEREAS, Lori created and hosted an annual South and Southwest Suburban Municipal Clerks Association Spring into Action Education Summit 2012 - 2016 and for over 200+ local municipal clerks and staff. She was also a partner in the “I AM Empowered Conference”, which hosts and facilitates Women’s Empowerment Conferences in Atlanta, Chicago and Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Lori was nominated and selected by the Municipal Clerks of Illinois as the “Rookie of the Year” for 2014. She was also a distinguished 2015 Alumni of Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership and one of Chicago Defender’s 50 Women of Excellence 2016, and

WHEREAS, during summers, Lori mentored more than 150 youth through collaborations with the Office of the City Clerk, Rotary District 6450 and UCAN’s Youth Employment Program; and

WHEREAS, Lori was the Assistant District Governor for Rotary District 6450, President of the Chicago Heights Free Public Library Board, Chair of the Rotary District 6450 International Convention Coordinator, was on the Board Nominating Committee, and served as President of the Rotary Club of Chicago Heights; and

WHEREAS, Lori was a 12-year combat war veteran of the United States Army Reserves with tours in Bosnia, Korea, Germany and Japan; she is involved in the local VFW; and

WHEREAS, Lori was most proud of her ability to delicately balance her duties as a mother of three children Taylor, Frank Jr. and Lorenzo, while proudly serving the public; and

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

[24-5732](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, MAGGIE TREVOR, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, MONICA GORDON, JOSINA MORITA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR. and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, in July of 1961, Illinois became the first state to decriminalize homosexuality by repealing our sodomy laws; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, homosexuality was classified as a mental disorder in the first edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), and it wasn't until 2013 that such categorizations of homosexuality as a mental illness were removed; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order that banned homosexuals from working for the federal government, sighting them as a security risk; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 1961, the first US-televised documentary about homosexuality aired on a local station in California; and

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Riots occurred in New York City on June 28, 1969, as led by Marsha P. Johnson, Silvia Rivera, Stormé DeLarverie, and Miss Major, and marked the beginning of the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement, although previous demonstrations and organizing efforts amongst the LGBTQIA+ community preceded; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1973, Maryland became the first state to statutorily ban same-sex marriage; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Kathy Kozachenko became the first openly LGBTQ American elected to any public office when she won a seat on the Ann Arbor, Michigan City Council; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 1979, the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights takes place, drawing an estimated 75,000 to 125,000 individuals marching for LGBTQ rights; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 1982, the CDC uses the term "AIDS" (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) for the first time in a new MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report), and releases the first case definition for AIDS as "A disease at least moderately predictive of a defect in cell-mediated immunity, occurring in a person with no known cause for diminished resistance to that disease"; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 1988, the first National Coming Out Day was observed; and

WHEREAS, the first World AIDS Day was observed on December 1, 1988; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the military policy known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” a directive that prohibited openly gay and lesbian Americans from serving in the military; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, banning federal recognition of same-sex marriage and defining marriage as “a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife”; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 1996, Hawaii’s Judge Chang ruled that the state does not have a legal right to deprive same-sex couples of the right to marry, making Hawaii the first state to recognize that gay and lesbian couples are entitled to the same privileges as heterosexual married couples; and

WHEREAS, on Jun 26, 2003, the Supreme Court decided Lawrence v. Texas, and held that a Texas statute criminalizing “homosexual conduct” violated the 14th Amendment’s Due Process Clause; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2004, the first legal same-sex marriage in the United States took place in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2006, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that state lawmakers must provide the rights and benefits of marriage to gay and lesbian couples; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, voters approve Proposition 8 in California, which made same-sex marriage illegal, and it wasn’t until 2010 that the proposition was found to be unconstitutional by a federal judge; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2011, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is repealed, ending the ban on gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court held that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which denied federal recognition of same-sex marriages, was a violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2013, same-sex marriage was passed in Illinois and signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn, with the law taking effect on June 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges that states cannot ban same-sex marriage; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2016, Secretary of Defense Carter announced that the Pentagon lifted the ban on transgender people serving openly in the US military; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2018, the Trump administration announced a new policy that banned most transgender people from serving in the military, which the Supreme Court allows the ban to go into effect in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects gay, lesbian, and transgender employees from discrimination based on sex; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order repealing the 2019 ban on most transgender Americans joining the military; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2022, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act which included new federal protections for same-sex and interracial couples and officially voided the Defense of Marriage Act; and

WHEREAS, here in Cook County there has never been more LGBTQ+ representation by our elected officials; and

WHEREAS, these events comprise a small proportion of the extensive history pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, these historically significant dates, events, and facts are not widely known nor taught; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) History Month is observed each year in the month of October to center and celebrate the history, successes, stories, work, and ongoing issues of the community; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ History Month was founded in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, a high school history teacher in Missouri, and passed as a resolution by the General Assembly of the National Education Association in 1995 which included LGBTQ+ History Month within a list of commemorative months; and

WHEREAS, the month of October was selected to coincide with National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11), and the anniversary of the first march on Washington, and to correlate when schools are in session-providing a time and space for education on the history of the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community is an important contributor to the diverse and vibrant communities across Cook County, and are deserving of a time and space for us all to recognize and appreciate the role of LGBTQ+ people across World and American history; and

WHEREAS, through the power of education, we as a County and a society can better understand the ways that past perspectives, laws, and treatment regarding the LGBTQ+ community continue to impact us today, and help us better advocate for LGBTQ+ members' ongoing needs and rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 to be LGBTQ+ History Month in Cook County.

[24-5938](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, MAGGIE TREVOR, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, MONICA GORDON, JOSINA MORITA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR. and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING COOK COUNTY'S CONTRIBUTION TO LGBTQ+ HISTORY

WHEREAS, Cook County and the Chicago area has had its share of contributions to the history of the LGBTQ+ community with amazing advocates such as Art Johnston and Robert Castillo; and

WHEREAS, Art Johnston and his partner José “Pep” Peña are nationally recognized LGBTQ+ civil rights leaders and the subject of an award-winning feature documentary, *ART AND PEP*, opened the iconic gay bar Sidetrack in 1982, and fueled a local civil rights movement that is still active today; and

WHEREAS, Johnston became an early member of Chicago’s Gay Athletic Association (later the Metropolitan Sports Association) serving on its board of directors between 1978 and 1991, and went on to help gain the league acceptance to the National Association of Amateur Gay Athletes; and

WHEREAS, Johnston was a co-founder of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights (now called Equality Illinois), whose primary mission is passage of state-level human rights legislation that includes equal protection for lesbian and gay Illinoisans; and

WHEREAS, Johnston was a pioneer in getting his suppliers to provide sponsorship for gay and lesbian athletic events, street fairs, community-based HIV and AIDS service providers, and other gay and lesbian organizations; and

WHEREAS, the late Ron Sable persuaded Johnston to become a founding board member of IMPACT, which served as the springboard for Johnston later to join with Jon-Henri Damski, Laurie Dittman, and Rick Garcia as the “Gang of Four” in organizing Gay and Lesbian Town Meetings, which was responsible for heightened lobbying efforts that in 1988 finally ushered in a historic Chicago ordinance banning discrimination because of sexual orientation and the 1993 passage of Cook County’s Human Rights Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the late Jon-Henri Damski was a columnist for GayLife, Gay Chicago Magazine, Windy City Times, and Nightlines and Outlines, ultimately penning over 700 articles chronicling gay and lesbian life in Chicago, and his lobbying efforts were instrumental to the passage of the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Rick Garcia was also fundamental in the passage of the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance, and was the founding executive director of Equality Illinois, a principal founder of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, which has now become Chicago's and Illinois' chief organizational voice for sexual-minority rights, and one of the founders of the national Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Organizations; and

WHEREAS, Laurie Dittman, former official of Independent Voters of Illinois - Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO) IMPACT, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, was a chief lobbyist during passage of city and county laws against sexual-orientation discrimination and went on to become a deputy city treasurer, becoming the highest ranking LGBTQ+ Chicago city official at the time; and

WHEREAS, Robert Castillo was active in advocating for passage of the Cook County Human Right Ordinance as a member of Queer Nation (QN) Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Castillo and QN members mounted a public campaign to ensure that Cook County pass a Human Rights Ordinance that provided protections based on sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Castillo organized public protests to maintain pressure on then Cook County Board President Richard Phelan to deliver on his campaign promise to pass a comprehensive Cook County Human Rights Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Castillo and QN fought efforts to introduce a Cook County Ordinance that would only cover unincorporated Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Castillo, QN and LGBTQ+ advocates were successful in their efforts to pass a Cook County Human Rights Ordinance that covered the entire population of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Castillo attended every Cook County Board Meeting from the introduction of the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance until its passage; and

WHEREAS, Castillo was part of the first case involving sexual orientation under the Cook County Human Right Ordinance that included Castillo, his late husband John Pennycuff and fellow Queer Nation members Steve Kleinedler and Craig Teichen; and

WHEREAS, Castillo and the three plaintiffs who became known as the "Dancing Queens" were victorious in their case against a Harwood Heights bar who had stopped the men from dancing and had the four arrested; and

WHEREAS, Castillo has helped set in motion efforts to secure legal protections for LGBTQIA+ Cook County residents through his activism and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Castillo has been honored for his 30+ years of LGBTQIA+ activism with induction into The

Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2001 for his work with a variety of community organizations including ACT UP, ALMA, Ambience Pa'lante, City of Chicago Advisory Council on LGBT Issues, NEIU Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance, LLEGO, People of Color Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Castillo, as a self-identified queer Latine, remains committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ residents of Chicago and Cook County; and

WHEREAS, former Cook County Commissioner, and current Treasurer, Maria Pappas was instrumental to the 1993 passage of Cook County's Human Rights Ordinance as she served as the primary sponsor for that amendment; and

WHEREAS, together Art Johnston and Robert Castillo, in conjunction with the entire network of advocates and allies, have fundamentally changed the legal landscape for the LGBTQ+ community in Cook County and the Chicago area; and

WHEREAS, Cook County remains indebted to their work as the county maintains itself as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights across the state and country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deep appreciation and recognition of Art Johnston and Robert Castillo for their many contributions advancing the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to Art Johnston and Robert Castillo in recognition of their contributions to Cook County.

[24-5910](#)

Sponsored by: SEAN M. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE VILLAGE OF PALOS PARK'S 110th ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Palos Park is a village in southwestern Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Geography played an important role in the settling and shaping of Palos Park; and

WHEREAS, Glaciers left behind forested ravines, freshwater springs, and fertile farmland which became home to the Potawatomi and other Native American tribes before the French explorers passed through the Palos area; and

WHEREAS, French earthwork ruins, coins and Native American pottery pieces were found on area farms; and

WHEREAS, In 1834 the Paddock family were the first Europeans to settle in Palos, closely followed by John D. McCord, Samuel Mahaffay, Adam Boyce, George Pettijohn, Robert Lucas, and others; and

WHEREAS, Some early settlers built log houses, then cut and transported timber to the growing city of Chicago on canal barges for construction or fuel; and

WHEREAS, Other settlers scratched out a place in the hills or fertile flatland of the south township, raising cattle, chickens, pigs, and goats; and

WHEREAS, They farmed the land with horse and plow, growing all the food they would need to survive in the remote area of early Palos; and

WHEREAS, The construction of the I&M Canal in 1848 would bring immigrant workers to the area, with the population of early settlers consisting of farmers, laborers, blacksmiths and wood cutters; and

WHEREAS, In 1850, Palos Township received its name from the first Postmaster, Melachan A. Powell, who renamed it from "Trenton". Powell's cabin also housed the first school in 1838; and

WHEREAS, By the late 1880s, there would be six one-room framed school houses in Palos Township; and

WHEREAS, The arrival of the Wabash Railroad in the 1890s opened the remote rural community of Palos, giving residents a new accessibility to the city and its opportunities. Residents began traveling to the city for work, so farmers began subdividing their land for development; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Sharpshooter's Association took the train to Palos in 1894, purchasing 39 acres across from the train depot for \$16,500 to build the first and largest recreational development in Palos Park; and

WHEREAS, The Sharpshooter's Club was the most elaborate and expensive club in the country when sharpshooting competitions was one of the era's biggest sports; and

WHEREAS, The growing community felt the need for a local government, incorporating the Village of Palos Park as a commission form of government in 1914, with Newspaper editor Ballard Dunn serving as the first mayor, and Ray Bumstead, J.W. Mahaffay, Bruce Summers, and Edward Tourtelot becoming the first Village Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Their Village Aid Plan ushered in new and improved roads, electricity, indoor plumbing, and telephones. Recognizing the value of the natural beauty of the land, Village officials created laws requiring one-acre residential lots, limiting industrial and business development to the Wabash Railroad site; and

WHEREAS, The Cook County Forest Preserves surrounding Palos Park on three sides have insulated

the Village from suburban sprawl, giving it a timeless look, while the green belt of forest preserves insulates it from the bustle of larger neighboring suburbs and the city; and

WHEREAS, Palos Park remains a small, mostly residential village, defined by the independent spirit of those who settled the land and worked together to build a community with a shared sense of pride, proudly celebrating its 110th Anniversary in 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County Commissioner Sean M. Morrison and the entire Cook County Board extends its heartiest congratulations and well-wishes to the Village of Palos Park on their 110th year of incorporation, wishing them continued success in their commitment to community in all the years to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to The Village of Palos Park.

[24-5928](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ROBERTO CLEMENTE COMMUNITY ACADEMY ON 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

WHEREAS, in 1974, the Tuley High School building closed, and the school was moved across the street to a new facility; and

WHEREAS, the students successfully demanded for the new school be named after Roberto Clemente, the Pittsburgh Pirates' right-fielder from Puerto Rico who earned multiple accolades as a National Baseball Hall of Fame baseball player and humanitarian. Clemente died in December 1972 in the crash of a plane he had chartered to take emergency relief to the survivors of a massive earthquake in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the students, parents, and community activists also successfully fought for new school leadership and curriculum that reflected the values and principles of their local community and Puerto Rican Chicago; and

WHEREAS, these groups continue to support the fight for equity within their school and the Chicago Public Schools system. This effort is further institutionalized by the high school's integration of parents and local community members into the school as mentors, tutors, and support staff; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente Community Academy is a cornerstone of the Humboldt Park and West Town community. They work with local community organizations like the Puerto Rican Cultural Center to

build educational systems outside of traditional academia, pushing to educate not only their students, but also the parents by offering technology training and financial literacy classes; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente Community Academy continually strives to uplift its students by becoming an International Baccalaureate school in 2015, allowing its students to enroll in college-level courses thus nurturing their opportunity for intellectual development; and

WHEREAS, the Roberto Clemente Community Academy leadership, faculty, students, and staff all work to defy the barriers brought about by structural racism in U.S. society and education. The high school continues to be an institution where students are encouraged to embrace their identity, culture, and the history of their community's struggle - especially for Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans in diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente Community Academy has become an important resource center for its steadily increasing migrant student population with programs such as the Welcome Center, which aims to streamline the student enrollment process of new arrivals from Central and South America while also connecting the families to health and social services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and members of the Board of Commissioners, do hereby congratulate Roberto Clemente Community Academy on the 50th year anniversary of their founding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the leadership of Roberto Clemente Community Academy.