



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

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

**Fourth New Items Agenda**

**Thursday, March 13, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**Issued on: 3/13/2025**

[25-1853](#)

**Sponsored by:** JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN DATA INCLUSION**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is one of the largest and most racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse counties in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Government is committed to supporting equitable, inclusive and accessible government; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Government must collect accurate data to understand and serve the specific needs of its diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County recognizes Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) as a minority group; and

**WHEREAS**, MENA includes over 26 ethnicities speaking many languages; and

**WHEREAS**, there were approximately 3.5 million MENA Americans in the United States according to the 2020 US Census; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is home to a large, growing and diverse MENA population including one of the largest Assyrian American communities in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the United State Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published updated Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) on March 28, 2024 that included a new race/ethnicity “Middle Eastern and North African” minimum reporting category; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County does not comprehensively or consistently collect or present data on MENA Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of comprehensive and consistent data on MENA American hinders Cook County’s ability to understand and serve these communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all Cook County Offices Under the President research that include racial and ethnic data collection must include MENA data collection, with ethnicity disaggregation where relevant and available; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all Cook County Office Under the President reports and

presentations that include racial and ethnic data, analysis and recommendations, must include MENA data, with disaggregated ethnicity data, when available.