



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

New Items Agenda

for the

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 11:00 AM

16-2632

Sponsored by: LUIS ARROYO JR, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

BOYCOTTING MISSISSIPPI AND MISSISSIPPI-BASED BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi adopted a controversial new law, HB1523, dubbed the Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination, which would allow government employees to refuse to issue marriage licenses or perform marriage ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, HB1523 allows businesses and faith-based groups to deny housing, jobs and adoption and foster care services to people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, there will be no disciplinary recourse for businesses or government employees that decline to participate in the provision of treatment, counseling, or surgery related to gender identity, psychological, counseling or fertility services; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi anti-LGBT Law, which will not take any disciplinary or enforcement action against a person who denies the aforementioned services, will have a negative effect and undermine the level of trust and cooperation between local police and communities; and

WHEREAS, the advocacy group, Freedom for All Americans, referred to Mississippi HB1523 as, “the Nation’s worst piece of anti-LGBT legislation”, the law goes even further than Indiana’s and North Carolina’s anti-LGBT laws, Gov. Bryant’s bill goes even farther in denying critical protections of and enabling discrimination against LGBT individuals; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has charted an ominous legal course that puts extremist politics before public safety and respect for human dignity, and betrays our most deeply-held American values; and

WHEREAS, HB1523 seriously undermines our basic American principles of fairness, justice and equality and will not protect anyone’s religious rights; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi continues to be one of three states to combine Robert E. Lee and Dr. Martin Luther King as a state holiday on the same day; one a Confederate General that led the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the Civil War, a fight where the South fought to continue the enslaved labor of blacks and economic system that slavery made possible; and

WHEREAS, on the polar opposite, Dr. Martin Luther King dedicated his life to win equal rights and opportunities for African Americans, the State of Mississippi has again chosen to isolate itself from the rest of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, many states, such as Vermont, Washington, and New York have passed legislation to ban official state-funded travel or sponsored travel to Mississippi and the District of Columbia is considering a similar measure; and

WHEREAS, the most appropriate response, by the taxpayers of Cook County to the State of Mississippi, is to assure that the State of Mississippi's isolation is tangible rather than symbolic; and

WHEREAS, Cook County, the 2nd largest county in the nation with a budget of over 3 billion dollars and a diverse population of more than five million, should be a leader in protecting the rights of people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that this Board of Commissioners hereby finds the Mississippi anti-LGBT Law to be offensive to the values of the taxpayers of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that this Board of Commissioners hereby boycotts the State of Mississippi and Mississippi-based businesses as long as Mississippi HB1523 stands in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that unless and until Mississippi HB1523 is repealed or invalidated, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Departments shall refrain from, to the extent practicable, and in instances where there is no significant additional cost to the County nor conflict with law, entering into any new, renewed, or amended contracts to purchase goods or services from any company that is headquartered in Mississippi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that County government will not participate in any conventions or other business, which requires County resources to be spent in the State of Mississippi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that this Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor of the State of Illinois to adopt similar resolutions calling for the boycott of the State of Mississippi and Mississippi-based businesses until the Mississippi anti-LGBT Law, HB1523 is repealed or invalidated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Secretary of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to Mississippi Governor, Phil Bryant.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

16-2642

Sponsored by: LUIS ARROYO JR, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A LOAN PROVISION OPTION FOR THE COOK COUNTY EMPLOYEE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

WHEREAS, On February 2, 1978, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the establishment of the Cook County Employee Deferred Compensation Plan. Since that date, Cook County employees have had the benefit of choosing to participate in said Plan; and

WHEREAS, thanks to County employees' contributions the account had \$1.2 billion by the end of 2015, which does not include the \$14.5 million contributed just during the current calendar year through March 2016; and

WHEREAS, the stated goals of the plan allow county employees to put aside money from each paycheck toward future economic security through pretax contributions from their own salaries; and

WHEREAS, the plan allows for employees to make a wide variety of autonomous decisions about contributions up to a maximum, as well as their own decisions about investment options and funds; and

WHEREAS, although the primary function of Deferred Compensation is to provide greater economic security in retirement, there are provisions of the federal law which allow for greater financial flexibility while still employed by the County and participating in the plan, specifically loan provisions for participating employees; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Deferred Compensation Plan does not currently allow participants to access their own Deferred Compensation funds through loans against an employee's own investment; and

WHEREAS, other governments with Deferred Compensation Plans administered by the same administrator locally and nationwide are offering their employees the opportunity to access their own funds via loan provisions; and

WHEREAS, employees in these governments have found it possible to use these funds to put towards the down payment on a home, pay tuition bills for their children or themselves and reduce excessively high interest on credit card debt; and

WHEREAS, deferred compensation loans may be an alternative to an unforeseeable emergency withdrawal; there are no taxes to pay as long as loan conditions are satisfied and the employee essentially "pays interest to themselves," rather than to a conventional lender; and

WHEREAS, employees who take a loan, are borrowing from their own Plan account with no credit check, easy approval and repayment of the loan, plus competitive interest rates back to their own Plan account in monthly installments within a specified period of time; and

WHEREAS, despite disadvantages of retirement plan loans including lost investment opportunity and penalties for failure to repay, loans should be an option for Cook County employees; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate control and authority of an employee's decisions -including, but not limited to, levels of contribution, investments, emergency withdrawals, loans or even the basic decision to participate in the program at all-must rest with the participating employee and not with Cook County or the plan administrator.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners asks the appointed Deferred Compensation Committee to work with the County's deferred compensation plan administrators to establish a loan provision option for consideration by this Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the desire of the Cook County Board of Commissioners to see a loan provision added to the County's Deferred Compensation Program by the end of the 3rd quarter of Cook County's current fiscal year.

16-2645

Presented by: JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, County Commissioner

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Department: Commissioner Murphy

Request: Approval of transfer of funds

Reason: To pay independent contractor

From Account(s): 086-110

To Account(s): 086-260

Total Amount of Transfer: \$20,000.00

On what date did it become apparent that the receiving account would require an infusion of funds in order to meet current obligations? What was the balance in the account on that date, and what was the balance 30 days prior to that date?

4/1/2016 and the balance in the account on that date was \$2,400.00.

How was the account used for the source of transferred funds identified? List any other accounts that were also considered (but not used) as the source of the transferred funds.

We hired an independent contractor to cover office duties of an employee that is on unpaid family medical leave. The unpaid family medical allowed us to have extra funds in 086-110.

Identify any projects, purchases, programs, contracts, or other obligations that will be deferred, delayed, or canceled as a result of the reduction in available spending authority that will result in the account that funds are transferred from.

None

If the answer to the above question is “none” then please explain why this account was originally budgeted in a manner that caused an unobligated surplus to develop at this point in the fiscal year.

Employee was on unpaid family medical leave.