

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED RESOLUTION ITEM # 16-4199

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COOK COUNTY CHIEF JUDGE'S OFFICE TO CREATE A SPEAKERS BUREAU AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Whereas, the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides citizens the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury; and

Whereas, court cases have ruled that an impartial jury is selected from a pool of individuals that represent a cross section of the community in regards to race, gender, and national origin; and

Whereas, in the American judicial system, the juror is entrusted with protecting the individual rights to life and liberty; and

Whereas, jury service teaches an individual the skills needed for analyzing and processing contesting facts, debating issues, listening and tolerating dissenting opinions; and

Whereas, a 2007 survey by the National Center for State Courts estimates that 32 million individuals are summoned to service annually, but only 8 million actually show up to serve, and of that amount only 1.5 million are selected to sit on a jury in a state each year; and

Whereas, Illinois Public Act 99-0434 amended the Illinois School Code to require students to have at least one semester of civics in order to graduate from high school; and

Whereas, this course will allow schools to integrate service projects with the classroom curriculum in enabling students to leverage their knowledge to address community issues; and

Whereas, civic education has been used to teach the skills needed to be responsible citizens; and

Whereas, civics focuses on providing information on governmental institutions, current and controversial issues, and the importance of the jury to our system of justice; and

Whereas, the new graduation requirements took effect as of January 1, 2016; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners that Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore will work on behalf of the Board in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County to create a Speakers Bureau consisting of current and retired members of the bar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of the Speakers Bureau is to reach out to the students within ~~the 4th District~~ Cook County to discuss with students the importance of citizens performing their civic duty and responding to a summons for jury duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Chief Judge Timothy Evans.