



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

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 9:00 AM

Special Consent Calendar Meeting - Third Set

[17-4446](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), JERRY BUTLER and STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING DR. CONRAD WORRILL

WHEREAS Dr. Conrad Worrill will retire from the Northeastern Illinois University Center for Inner City Studies on December 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS Dr. Worrill developed his thirst for activism while experiencing prejudice and racism as a young athlete and while serving his country as an Army soldier; and

WHEREAS after returning home from his tour of duty in 1963, Dr. Worrill became a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, as a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Throughout his career he has participated in organizations such as, the National Black United Front, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America and the U.N. World Conference Against Racism; and

WHEREAS Dr. Worrill has dedicated his career to addressing political, social, economic, and cultural forces that impact African Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize Dr. Conrad Worrill for his local, national and international contributions to the health and viability of the African American community and to the citizens of Cook County.

17-4448

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE REDEDICATION OF EBENEZER PRIMM TOWERS IN EVANSTON, AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF REVEREND JACOB S. BLAKE

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Primm Towers was the first church sponsored federally funded housing project in a major suburban area. It will be rededicated on Sunday, July 30, 2017. At its rededication, the community will honor the Reverend Jacob S. Blake's pivotal role in making Ebenezer Primm Towers a reality and the powerful legacy of Reverend Blake and Ebenezer AME Church; and

WHEREAS, for decades, prior to arriving in Evanston, Reverend Blake was a leader and a major force for good in the region battling profound injustices, such as redlining, housing discrimination, education inequity and busing. In Evanston, in addition to so many other issues, he worked tirelessly to establish affordable housing for the senior citizens in Evanston, where rents were rising rapidly. The result was the establishment of Ebenezer Primm Towers, which has a proud history that is a reflection of Reverend

Blake and his intense determination and strong leadership; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Primm Towers came about in an unprecedented real estate deal with Northwestern University. Reverend Blake and Ebenezer AME Church purchased land owned by the university at 25% below market value for \$75,000. According to university officials, Northwestern sold the land to the church to foster good community relations and to dispel the notion that the university only expanded in black communities. The Northwestern Black Student Union, the Black Ensemble of Northwestern and the African American Community in Evanston put pressure on the University to sell the land. But there was a catch to the deal, if construction didn't start within 24 months of the sale, Northwestern University could buy the property back. With the clock ticking, funds were raised via several sources. The church got a loan to buy the land and received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help finance the \$500,000 construction project. The rest was raised by the community that pulled together to make the dream a reality; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Levy, owner of a Buick car dealership at the time, donated a brand new Buick to be auctioned off to raise money for the project. The church held fundraisers which included selling dinners, hosting basketball tournaments and at the Ebenezer AME Church 90th Anniversary Gala. To ensure that housing for the elderly remained a priority in Evanston, John Young, Urban Planner of Evanston at the time worked with a committee to create a special zoning district for that purpose. Ebenezer Primm Towers was dedicated July 1973 and residents moved in soon after.

WHEREAS, Reverend Blake's widow Patricia G. Blake and sons Justin S. Blake and Jacob S. Blake Jr. will be in attendance at the rededication of Ebenezer Primm Towers along with members of Ebenezer AME Church, other family members and friends; the community will honor Reverend Jacob S. Blake's crucial role in making Ebenezer Primm Towers a reality; 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 takes great pleasure in honoring and celebrating the rededication of Ebenezer Primm Towers and herewith honors the progress and impact that Reverend Blake's work has done bettering the lives of the citizens of Cook County, Illinois; 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 Ebenezer Primm Towers and the family of Reverend Blake.

[17-4449](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING PROFESSOR LEWIS "LEW" MYERS , Jr.

WHEREAS, Professor Lewis "Lew" Myers, Jr. has made significant contributions to the African American community and citizens of Cook County; and

WHEREAS after completing his high school education in his hometown of Houston, Texas, Professor Myers, entered Tennessee State University in Nashville where he joined the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (S.N.C.C.) Chapter on the Campus. He would eventually transfer from Tennessee State University to Howard University (Washington, D.C.) where he earned his degree; and

WHEREAS, Professor Myers, earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Professor Myers has dedicated his life to tackling issues within the criminal justice system and its affect on young African American men and women; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Professor Myers changed his litigation focus from a predominately criminal practice to personal injury and civil rights cases; and

WHEREAS, Professor Myers has served on many national and local organizations including but not limited to: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the NAACP (Life Member), 500 Black Men (Founder of Chicago Chapter), Black Men's Forum, and the American Historical Association, Teamwork Englewood; and

WHEREAS, Professor Myers served as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of the Urban Solutions Institute at Chicago State University, a historically black university located in Cook County. He has also taught Criminal Justice Kennedy-King College.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize Attorney and Professor Lewis "Lew" Myers, Jr. for his essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

17-4450

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD CHARLES REINFRANCK, EDUCATOR, POLITICAL LEADER, MORAL COMPASS AND STAR SOFTBALL PLAYER**

WHEREAS, Edward Charles Reinfranck passed away on June 21, 2017 at age 98; and

WHEREAS, Ed Reinfranck was a beloved World War II veteran; and

WHEREAS, Ed Reinfranck was a highly respected professor at Wright Junior College for thirty seven years where he guided hundreds of students; and

WHEREAS, Ed Reinfranck served as State President of Common Cause and as President of the Democratic Party of Evanston where he was the moral compass for multiple generations of activists; and

WHEREAS, Ed Reinfranck and his wife Phyllis welcomed thousands of people to their home for spirited discussions and action planning on the issue of the day; and

WHEREAS, Ed Reinfranck was one of the oldest players in a variety of softball leagues, often playing better than his much younger teammates; and

WHEREAS, Ed and Phyllis moved to Evanston in 1960 to raise their four sons, Stephen, Peter, Thomas and James; and

WHEREAS, Ed and Phyllis helped move Evanston from a conservative small town to the dynamic liberal town through their hard work; and

WHEREAS, all who knew Ed will miss his keen insights and the leadership he gave to so many issues; 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 commemorates the extraordinary life of Edward Charles Reinfranck and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; 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 family of Edward Charles Reinfranck.