



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

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

New Items Agenda

Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 11:00 AM

Third Set

17-4461

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN, SEAN M. MORRISON and TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND COUNTY BOARD TO PREVENT AS MANY LAYOFFS AS POSSIBLE**

WHEREAS, Cook County's sweetened beverage tax has been blocked by the courts until at least July 21, and

WHEREAS, the President of the Board has requested that each department and separately elected official cut their budgets by 10 percent, and

WHEREAS, the President of the Board has announced plans to lay off 1,100 county employees, and

WHEREAS, the bulk of these layoffs will affect the Cook County Sheriff's Office, and

WHEREAS, Chicago is facing a gun violence crisis, and this would cripple the Sheriff's efforts to fight that violence, and

WHEREAS, layoffs of this magnitude will lead to many issues at the jail, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has indicated these layoffs could lead to the closing of a court house and closing entrances to the other court houses, and

WHEREAS, the layoffs would also target the State's Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office, and

WHEREAS, these layoffs could lead to federal lawsuits for violating detainee and criminal defendant rights, and

WHEREAS, the President of the Board has indicated that the only path to financial solvency is with layoffs of this magnitude, and

WHEREAS, the County should eliminate every single extra dollar and position before targeting public safety, and

WHEREAS, the President should immediately institute a hiring freeze of all non-essential or court ordered positions, and

WHEREAS, the President and Board ought to work together to find additional cost saving measures so that these offices are not decimated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that the President of the Board should work with the Board to minimize layoffs of this level, especially in the area of public safety.