



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

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

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 9:00 AM

Second Set

[17-5852](#)

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), LUIS ARROYO JR, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, GREGG GOSLIN, EDWARD M. MOODY, STANLEY MOORE, SEAN M. MORRISON, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HONORING JAHKIL JACKSON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY WITH PROJECT I AM

WHEREAS, According to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, over 82,000 Chicagoans are homeless. 76% of people living in homeless shelters are black, 19% are white and 97% of CPS homeless students are children of color; and,

WHEREAS, Jahkil Jackson, at the age of 8, when many children are only concerned with video games and playing with friends, felt a calling to help those in need; and,

WHEREAS, Jahkil, after helping his Aunt distribute food to the homeless, created Project I Am. Over the past 2 years Jahkil has helped thousands in need by creating and growing Project I Am; and,

WHEREAS, Project I Am serves the Chicago homeless population by distributing "Blessing Bags." Blessing Bags contain every day essentials many in the homeless community are lacking, including wipes, socks, deodorant, hand sanitizer, granola bars, toothbrush, toothpaste, bottled water, and more; and,

WHEREAS, Jahkil personally distributes the bags to homeless individuals throughout the city, as well as to those in need at Cornerstone Center, Franciscan House, Pacific Garden Mission, Teen Living Center and many other facilities; and,

WHEREAS, Jahkil, a now highly motivated, goal-driven 10 year old, has donated over 1,600 Blessing Bags in 2016, and wants to donate to 5,000 persons by December 31, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Jahkil, recognizing he could help even more people by partnering with other organizations, worked with Heartland Alliance putting together bags to help with their initiative. Heartland Alliance is one of the world's leading anti-poverty organizations, working in communities throughout the U.S.; and,

WHEREAS, Jahkil continues to work to make the world a better place by giving of himself, his time and his energy and help as many people as possible, and in 2016 became a member of the WE International Youth Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners to recognize Jahkil Jackson on his commitment to serving those in need and his leadership

with Project I Am and the sincere appreciation of the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners is extended to Jahkil Jackson for his service to the wider community.

[17-5855](#)

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), LUIS ARROYO JR, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, GREGG GOSLIN, EDWARD M. MOODY, STANLEY MOORE, SEAN M. MORRISON, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HONORING TENA MAE LONGSTREET ON HER 99th BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Tena Mae Longstreet was born August 18, 1918 in Coffeeville, Mississippi to David and Willie Reed and was one of 12 children; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 38, Ms. Longstreet moved to Chicago where she has resided on the westside of Chicago since 1956. Throughout her lifetime, she was a farmer, factory worker, milliner (hat maker), and home healthcare aid; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Longstreet is a mother of six children, grandmother to fifteen grandchildren and great-grandmother to a host of great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Longstreet has been a devoted Christian woman all of her life and a member of the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, in Coffeeville, Mississippi and Greater Christian Fellowship M.B. in Chicago.

WHEREAS Ms. Longstreet now spends her free time enjoying family, friends and quilting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners to recognize Tena Mae Longstreet on her 99th birthday celebration and the sincere appreciation of the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners is extended to Tena Mae Longstreet for her service to her family, neighborhood, community and church.

[17-5861](#)

Sponsored by: JESÚS G. GARCÍA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING CHICAGO MARIACHI PROJECT (CMP) ON WINNING 1ST PLACE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY AND 3RD PLACE OVERALL AT THE 27TH ANNUAL MARIACHI SPECTACULAR DE ALBUQUERQUE

WHEREAS, Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque is one of the most important and longest running mariachi conferences in the world attracting hundreds of students from throughout the United States and México; and

WHEREAS, this conference distinguishes itself by attracting some of the most iconic mariachi musicians as clinicians leading workshops and maintaining education as its central focus; and

WHEREAS, students from Chicago Mariachi Project's (CMP) prestigious Mariachi Academy returned from Albuquerque, New Mexico after having won First Place in the High School Category and Third Place Overall at the 27th Annual Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, CMP's winning ensemble included students from Orozco Community Academy, Kanoon Magnet School, Back of the Yards High School, Juárez Community Academy, Lincoln Park High School, Whitney Young High School, Mother Macaulay High School, Trinity High School, and UCSN; and

WHEREAS, category competitors included groups from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Texas, while the overall competition included a total of 16 groups with some from California, New York, and New Mexico as well; and

WHEREAS, in addition to having won First Place in the High School Category and Third Place Overall, CMP's First Violin, Jaden Gray, was selected to the elite Masters Class, a distinction and high honor for aspiring musicians; and

WHEREAS, CMP also held performances for AARP New Mexico, who welcomed them to Albuquerque at Church Street Café; the morning news for KRQE News 13; as well as the National Anthem and Halftime Show at the Albuquerque Sol FC soccer game vs. FC Boulder; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Mariachi Project (CMP) is a federally designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to elevate the Art of Mariachi and promote excellence in musicianship through education, coordination and support; and

WHEREAS, directing Chicago's longest running mariachi education programs, CMP continues to grow and provide quality instruction to students from Chicago public schools as well as the greater Chicagoland

area and Indiana; and

WHEREAS, CMP is a recognized leader in mariachi education in the Chicagoland area that has built a comprehensive network of resources which enables it to provide the highest quality level of programs and services through its extensive relationships locally, throughout the United States and México; and

WHEREAS, CMP currently runs programs in five Chicago Public Schools consisting of 4 elementary/middle schools (after school), 1 high school (in school elective and after-school), which includes two musical bridge programs, and a prestigious weekend Mariachi Academy; and

WHEREAS, CMP partners with nonprofits, community and arts organizations such as Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Grant Park Music Festival, Ravinia, Old Town School of Folk Music, Little Village Chamber of Commerce, Eighteenth Street Development Corporation, Frida Kahlo Community Organization and others to expand opportunities for these talented young musicians; and

WHEREAS, CMP was the first student mariachi ensemble from Chicago to embark on a tour in 2016 and has shared the stage with some of the most notable mariachi ensembles including the legendary Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán, Grammy Award winning Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, two-time Grammy Award winning Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea among others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Chicago Mariachi Project (CMP) on winning 1st place in the high school category and 3rd place overall at the 27th Annual Mariachi Spectacular De Albuquerque; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Chicago Mariachi Project (CMP) for their accomplishment and hard work.

[17-5862](#)

Sponsored by: JESÚS G. GARCÍA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING RAMI NASHASHIBI ON RECEIVING THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GENIUS AWARD

WHEREAS, the MacArthur Foundation Genius Award is a prestigious award given out each year in “recognition of exceptional creativity; promise for important future advances based on the recipient’s previous track record; and the potential of the award to facilitate subsequent creative work”; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi, founder and Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), was announced to be one of the 2017 recipient fellows; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi received a B.A. (1995) from DePaul University and a Ph.D. (2010) from the University of Chicago and has taught at a number of colleges and universities across the Chicagoland area, and served as a member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi’s passion for social justice was ignited when he came to Chicago in 1990 and was exposed to the inequalities underrepresented communities face on the south side of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi founded IMAN in 1997, in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood to confront the challenges of poverty and disinvestment in urban communities and build bridges across racial, religious, and socioeconomic divides; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi’s leadership in IMAN has served to counter xenophobic misperceptions of immigrants with a powerful example of Muslim-led community activism and to demonstrating how Islamic spiritual ideals enrich American culture; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi’s work in a diverse community of Latino, African-American, working class white and immigrant families of different religious backgrounds is an example of what happens when people see their commonalities rather than differences, bridging the gap between communities; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi’s well-deserved award comes right on time as he is celebrating 20 years of grass-roots organizing; and

WHEREAS, through IMAN, Rami Nashashibi has worked to help citizens returning from prison regain their footing by giving them income-based housing, job training, salaried positions and the tools to help them find their life’s purpose; and

WHEREAS, IMAN, which operates with a \$3.9 million annual budget, established a program that renovates vacant properties and sells them to lower-income, working residents who go through a homeownership training program; and

WHEREAS, IMAN has established a small community clinic that provides primary health care and behavioral health services to a largely uninsured and underinsured population in and around Marquette Park; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi launched the Muslim Run Corner Store Campaign, a program that aims to make fresh, healthy foods more readily available in underserved neighborhoods, develop alternative business models for food and liquor stores, and heal the racial tensions between store owners (who are often Arab immigrants) and patrons (who are predominantly black); and

WHEREAS, to further promote cross-cultural dialogue and celebrate wide-ranging forms of artistic expression, including hip-hop, Sufi Qawwali singing, spoken-word, and soul, IMAN produces a vibrant arts and social justice festival, Takin' It to the Streets, that attracts an audience of thousands to the heart of Marquette Park; and

WHEREAS, more recently, IMAN began hosting weekly Grassroots Power Hour sessions, which offer local residents a space to discuss their needs in relation to shifting immigration and criminal justice policies with legal experts, behavioral health staff, community organizers, and one another; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi's practical approach to addressing social justice issues at the local level in Chicago neighborhoods has informed and inspired Muslim American civic engagement efforts in cities from Los Angeles to Atlanta, where a new chapter of IMAN recently opened; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi has lectured across the United States, Europe, and Asia on a range of topics related to American Muslim identity, community activism and social justice issues and is a recipient of several prestigious community service and organizing honors; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi and his work with IMAN have been featured in many national and international media outlets and in 2009, Chicago Public Radio selected him as one of the "Top Ten Chicago Global Visionaries"; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Center for American Progress profiled Rami Nashashibi as one of the "14 Faith Leaders to Watch in 2014" and he was named one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims in the World" by The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center in concert with Georgetown's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding; and

WHEREAS, Rami Nashashibi's selection is a testament to his extraordinary vision and leadership, built upon the long legacy of transformative Muslim-led work in urban neighborhoods across America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does

hereby congratulates Rami Nashashibi on receiving the MacArthur Foundation Genius Award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Rami Nashashibi for his accomplishments.

[17-5890](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE COPERNICUS CENTER

WHEREAS, the Copernicus Foundation, named after world-renowned Polish scientist and the Father of Modern Astronomy Nicolaus Copernicus, was chartered as a not-for-profit organization in July 1971 to serve the metropolitan Chicago area as a major civic, cultural, educational, recreational and entertainment resource; and

WHEREAS, a search began in 1977 for a permanent site to house a Polish cultural center in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Copernicus Foundation purchased the old Gateway Cinema building located near Milwaukee and Lawrence avenues and restored the building, converting it into the Copernicus Center; and

WHEREAS, since 1979, the Copernicus Foundation annually fulfills its mission for education and entertainment in another way, by sponsoring the annual “TASTE OF POLONIA FESTIVAL”, the largest Polish Festival in the country visited by over 30,000 annually where festival goers familiarize themselves with many aspects of Polish customs, culture, traditions and language; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, the Copernicus Foundation has serviced over one and a half million patrons in the last 10 years and has underwritten and contributed support to the performing arts; and

WHEREAS, the Copernicus Center is used by theatrical groups, schools, symphonies, modern rock concerts, beauty pageants, fashion shows, body building tournaments, international music stars, local musicians, and even the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Copernicus Center has served as a beacon of hope for families across the Polish community, Chicago and all of Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize Copernicus Center for its essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[17-5900](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING SGI YOUTHFUL SUCCESSORS DAY

WHEREAS, 1,200 youth from 25 states, including Illinois and Cook County participated in the “Heartland of America: Roaring Lions of Justice and Victory” gathering in Chicago on October 15, 2017, at Hyatt McCormick Place; and

WHEREAS, this gathering marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of SGI-USA’s Central Territory, and the 57th Anniversary of SGI President Daisaku Ikeda’s historic first visit to Chicago on October 9, 1960; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda has worked tirelessly to instill in young people a sense of responsibility for global and social issues, with the goal of fostering future generations of youth committed to working for peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda serves as a living example of concern, compassion and taking responsibility for humanity through his efforts as a pioneering, citizen-diplomat; as a promoter of peace and his annual submission of Peace Proposals to the United Nations; as a Buddhist scholar and author of more than 150 books; and as the founder of peace, culture and education institutions in the United States, Latin America, Europe and Japan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda’s efforts have resulted in his being the recipient of numerous acknowledgments of his peace work, including the United Nations Peace Award; the International Tolerance Award from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda has been the recipient of more than 300 honorary degrees and honorary professorships, including from DePaul University, and more than 700 honorary citizenships from communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda’s work has served as the inspiration and motivation for several initiatives, including the youth-created, peer education program, Victory Over Violence; a nuclear abolition campaign that gathered and presented 13 million signatures to the UN; and the collection and publication of individual wartime experiences, as a reminder of the truth of his words: “True and lasting peace will only be realized by forging life-to-life bonds of trust and friendship among the world's people. Human solidarity is built by opening our hearts to each other. This is the power of dialogue.”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda’s efforts also led to the international expansion of the Soka Gakkai’s peace movement, which has grown to more than 12 million members in 192 countries and territories, including

Cook County in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 15, 2017, 1,200 youth vowed to carry forward the work of Dr. Ikeda to build a culture of peace and a society that honors and respects the equality and dignity of all humanity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, as President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby declare October 15, 2017 as SGI YOUTHFUL SUCCESSORS DAY.

[17-5901](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE SOUTH HOLLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, the South Holland Historical Society has made significant contributions to the diverse communities of the Southland and to the residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the South Holland Historical Society has served the Village of South Holland and has served Cook County's Southland as a nonprofit organization created to preserve the history of South Holland; and

WHEREAS, the Society preserves the history of the first settlers of the 1800's and their homesteads at the annual Labor Day festival at Paarlberg Farm located at 172nd and Paxton avenues; and

WHEREAS, the Society holds monthly meetings with historians and speakers from other areas spanning a wide range of topics; and

WHEREAS, the Society has taken major steps in building bridges across the Southland communities to include residents of many different ethnicities and races; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize the South Holland Historical Society and their essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[17-5903](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING JUST JAMMIN' WITH JANELLE & COMPANY

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2011, Just Jammin' with Janelle & Company was founded and began to work with churches, health fairs, local fundraisers, schools and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Company has performed at various events hosted by The Village of South Holland and the South Holland Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Just Jammin' regularly teaches line dancing throughout the week at Olympia Fields Park District, South Holland Community Center, and The Irwin Center in Homewood; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the South Holland Historical society, and through outreach to other Southland communities, Just Jammin' has been able to promote diversity and integration in a way that inspires both adults and children; and

WHEREAS, Just Jammin' has made significant contributions to the African-American community and to the residents of Cook County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize Just Jammin' and its essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[17-5904](#)

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, DENNIS DEER, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, GREGG GOSLIN, EDWARD M. MOODY, STANLEY MOORE, SEAN M. MORRISON, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LOUIS “SONNY” SPALLA, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Louis “Sonny” Spalla from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was the beloved husband of the late Rita (nee Vittorio); and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was the loving father of Anthony (Cara), Therese (Francis) Degnan, Louis (Gina) and Rita Spalla (Mike LaCoco); and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was the beloved son of Anthony and Loretta Spalla; and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was the loving grandfather of Martina (Matthew) Maggiore, Anthony, Gia, and Jenna; and great grandfather of Anthony and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was the dear brother of the late Marie (the late Carmen “Rails”) Balastri, Connie (the late Sam) Argento; brother-in-law of Marie (the late Joseph) Panozzo, Joseph “Buddy” (Jacki) DiVittorio, and the late Roseanne DiVittorio; and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was the fond uncle of many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was a loyal friend who was loved by many and will be remembered by all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Louis “Sonny” Spalla was a proud member of St. Albert the Great Knights of Columbus Council #3935, and original member of the O.N.I.A.C.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of Louis “Sonny” Spalla and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to the family of Louis “Sonny” Spalla so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[17-5905](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING BLACKS IN GREEN ON THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, since 2007, Blacks in Green has worked to catalyze economic development, local land and business ownership, and ecological sustainability in black communities; and

WHEREAS, Blacks in Green has pioneered “Garden Oriented Development” [GOD] to ensure high quality homes and gardens, food system enterprises, and the conservation lifestyle within Great Migration Legacy communities; and

WHEREAS, Blacks in Green builds the capacity for local self-management in “walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play” villages called The Sustainable Square Mile; and

WHEREAS, Blacks in Green strives to improve the health and wealth of the whole community; and

WHEREAS, the Blacks in Green organization works to change and reverse racial economic disparities; and

WHEREAS, Blacks in Green has made significant contributions to the African-American community and to the residents of Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize Blacks in Green for their essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[17-5906](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE BLACK OAKS CENTER

WHEREAS, the Black Oaks Center operates the Healthy Food Hub in Chicago and seeks to create a just, holistic and local food system to transform communities through education, entrepreneurship and access to healthy, affordable foods; and

WHEREAS, in July 2017, the Black Oaks Center partnered with the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS) and began hosting weekly Fresh Markets at three South Suburban Health Centers: Oak

Forest, Robbins, and Cottage Grove (in Ford Heights); and

WHEREAS, Fresh Markets provide new opportunities for CCHHS patients and community members to obtain fresh produce in areas where full service grocery stores are scarce; and

WHEREAS, Fresh Markets were open this summer at Cottage Grove on Mondays, Oak Forest on Wednesdays, and at Robbins on Fridays and will continue to operate year-round at the Oak Forest Auditorium starting October 25; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize the Black Oaks Center for their essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[17-5907](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING DAISAKU IKEDA DAY

WHEREAS, October 9, 2017, marked the 57th anniversary of Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda's first visit to Cook County where he, after witnessing an act of racial injustice, re-determined at the age of 32 to devote his entire life to fighting for the recognition of the dignity, respect and equality of all people; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda's experience in Cook County provided the foundation for pioneering international, citizen-diplomacy in order to promote justice, harmony and cross-cultural exchanges and dialogues with ordinary citizens, scholars, academicians, authors, artists, policymakers, and thought-leaders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda's efforts to share through these dialogues the philosophy of value creation-the limitless potential of the human spirit to find meaning in difficulty and transform suffering into growth-has resulted in the bestowal of more than 300 honorary doctorates and professorships from institutions of higher learning worldwide, including DePaul University, and the awarding of more than 700 honorary citizenships from communities spanning the globe; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda has bolstered and expanded his efforts to build a culture of peace by writing more than 150 books, which have been translated in scores of languages; by establishing the Soka education system, including Soka University of America, and by establishing cultural and peace institutions in the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Japan;

WHEREAS, since 1983, Dr. Ikeda has annually submitted Peace Proposals to the United Nations that promote the embracing and appreciation of cultural differences; advocate for the protection of women and children against the ravages of war; reject the use of nuclear armaments under any circumstances, and

promote dialogue as the preferred means for resolving conflicts; and

WHEREAS, 1,200 youth from more than 20 states, who are inspired by Dr. Ikeda to stand up for the equality, dignity and respect of all people, gathered on October 15, 2017, at Hyatt McCormick Place, to mark the 10th anniversary of SGI-USA's establishment of Central Territory at the "Heartland of America: Roaring Lions of Justice and Victory" gathering; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda's efforts have resulted in the establishment of a multicultural, global peace movement comprised of more than 12 million people in 192 countries and territories, including 10,000 members of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, these youth, based on Dr. Ikeda's encouragement that "one ripple can produce countless other" ripples for peace and justice, are vowing to support and encourage other youth, and help them awaken to their limitless potential to live with undefeatable conviction, boundless courage, profound gratitude and tremendous respect for other human beings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, as President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby recognize the invaluable contributions Daisaku Ikeda has made to foster peace worldwide and to inspire the residents of Cook County,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, President, hereby proclaim October 9, 2017 as Daisaku Ikeda Day.

[17-5909](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE RENAISSANCE COLLABORATIVE

WHEREAS, The Renaissance Collaborative (TRC) has made significant contributions to the African-American community and to the residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, TRC's mission is the belief that all individuals have value and, therefore, can better contribute to themselves, their families and their communities when provided with the support systems they may need; and

WHEREAS, TRC's goal is to promote self-sufficiency through an innovative and comprehensive network of supportive housing, employment and educational services; and

WHEREAS, the historic *Wabash YMCA* building has become the site of TRC's *Renaissance Apartments and Fitness for Life Center*, serving the homeless; and

WHEREAS, seniors in the Bronzeville community receive holistic services at the *TRC Senior Village*, so that seniors can age in a welcoming place with grace and involvement in the community; and

WHEREAS, The Renaissance Collaborative is honoring the memory of Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele at their 25th Anniversary Gala; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize The Renaissance Collaborative and their essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[17-5911](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), JOHN P. DALEY, LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, DENNIS DEER, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, GREGG GOSLIN, EDWARD M. MOODY, STANLEY MOORE, SEAN M. MORRISON, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING SHELLY BANKS, COOK COUNTY AUDITOR

WHEREAS, Shelly Banks, Cook County Auditor, will end her service to the residents of Cook County on November 10, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Banks served the State of Illinois as an auditor in various capacities from 1994 to 2013 including roles at the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Central Management Services, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Lottery; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Banks was named Auditor to Cook County in 2013; and

WHEREAS, as Cook County Auditor, Shelly Banks has expanded the County's audit coverage and produced recommendations that have helped lead to service improvements and reduced costs across County departments; and

WHEREAS, as Cook County Auditor, Shelly Banks has modernized the County's Internal Audit Program and led the office to obtain the first external Quality Assessment Review with no findings in over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, as Cook County Auditor, Shelly Banks established and implemented the Annual Countywide Risk Assessment Program for 34 Offices under the President, 9 Elected Offices and the Forest Preserve District to assess risk across 500+ County department, offices and programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County do hereby extend their thanks and gratitude to Shelly Banks for her contributions and leadership to all of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County wish Shelly Banks well in all her future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Shelly Banks as a small token of appreciation for her service to Cook County.