



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

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

**New Items Agenda**

**Thursday, July 25, 2019, 10:00 AM**

**Fourth Set**

[19-4849](#)

**Sponsored by:** BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**AFFIRMING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS THAT THE COOK COUNTY BOARD HAS UNDERTAKEN AND TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County must ensure that all people-regardless of their zip code, economic status, or race deserve access to justice; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to 2010, Cook County did not comply with state law on bail and best practices for pretrial release of non-violent offenders; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Policy Roadmap: Five - year Strategic Plan was established. The Policy Roadmap is the first comprehensive, policy-driven plan to address the major public policy challenges needed to ensure sustainable benefits to residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Policy Roadmap has six policy priorities and was created with input and feedback from residents, community groups and other governmental agencies to ensure transparent and effective outcomes and foster continued public engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the policy priorities, is Safe and Thriving Communities, which is a focus on reforming the criminal justice system to ensure public safety and address racial and ethnic disparities within the justice system. Furthermore, this plan seeks to rebuild community trust in the justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, violence prevention is key to building community, fostering economic development and eliminating crime; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2010, Cook County has awarded nearly \$18 million in grants to support community-based solutions that address the issues contributing to juvenile or criminal justice system involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2014, Cook County Criminal Justice Stakeholders have been convening quarterly to coordinate reforms to the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is now a national leader in juvenile expungement reform; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle backed a law that ended the automatic transfer of juveniles to adult court; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County uses a validated risk assessment tool to aid in bail decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County has positively affected public safety through bail reform. Doing so has lowered the jail population by almost 50%, while improving public safety and court appearance rates; and

**WHEREAS**, bail reform has led to an increase in defendants attending court hearings, rising from 82.5% to 83.2% of defendants attending all appointments; and

**WHEREAS**, in part through reforming the bond system, which has long penalized people simply for being poor and had disproportionately impact on communities of color, Cook County is now a national leader; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County has a responsibility to right the wrongs of the past. State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx has proactively sought out and vacated the wrongful convictions of more than 75 individuals based on actual innocence; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners is committed to pursuing racial justice, being good stewards of taxpayer dollars, allocating our resources properly, working towards reducing system inefficiencies and providing community-based support for lower risk offenders.