

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF MAY 21, 2020

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SUBMITTALS

RESPONSES 41-60

41. Bernadetta Gio	Concerned Individual	Justice
42. B Hackett	Concerned Individual	Chicago
43. Sadie Baker	Concerned Individual	Chicago
44. James Zuniga	Concerned Individual	Chicago
45. Julie Hernandez	Concerned Individual	Blue Island
46. Rebecca Kohn	1977	Chicago
47. Brian C. Johnson	Equality Illinois	Chicago
48. John Matz	Concerned Individual	Chicago
49. David Ernesto Munar	Howard Brown Health	Chicago
50. Jason Beddings	Concerned Individual	[blank]
51. Liz Velek	SWOP	Chicago
52. Timothy J. McCarthy	Orland Park Police Department	Orland Park
53. Chief William Kushner	Des Plaines Police Dept.	Des Plaines
54. Ed Petrak	Brookfield Police Department	Brookfield
55. Chad Brajercik	Concerned Individual	Chicago
56. Daniel Anderson	City of Des Plaines Fire Department	Des Plaines
57. Kevin Doyle	Palos Heights Fire Protection District	Palos Heights
58. Sam Forsythe	Concerned Individual	Chicago
59. Stephanie Chiocca	Concerned Individual	Chicago
60. Katt Ross	Concerned Individual	Chicago

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:00:52 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:02:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 172.58.139.236

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Bernadetta Gio
City/Town: Justice
State: IL
ZIP: 60458

Q2

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

What do you want to do?

DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING but REGISTER IN
OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may add written
comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Oppose 4 month extension

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:04:04 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:07:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:17
IP Address: 75.34.23.73

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: B Hackett
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60631

Q2

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

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Respondent skipped this question

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Q4

What do you want to do?

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There is no need to extend anything through September. Under what circumstances? There is no disaster. Almost half of the dead are from nursing homes. Stop making things worse than they are extending a disaster that isn't any longer.

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:32:22 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:43:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:40
IP Address: 216.80.115.251

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Sadie Baker
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60626

Q2

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

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Q3

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20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

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As a healthcare worker, I know that it is essential to combat this pandemic and that individual liberties must sometimes be scarified. However, sharing addresses of COVID19 positive people is an unnecessary measure that violates the right to privacy of citizens without providing any benefit. In fact, it may discourage testing in communities that are already hardest hit.

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:32:24 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:46:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:19
IP Address: 71.239.213.126

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: James Zuniga
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60632

Q2

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

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Q3

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20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

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I vote in opposition of the resolution 20-2378 because releasing the name and address of someone positive for COVID is a direct violation of the HIPAA. Violating someone's privacy will not protect first responders from asymptomatic and untested people who are the most contagious.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:03:50 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:05:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:13
IP Address: 107.77.207.70

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Julie Hernandez
City/Town:	Blue island
State:	IL
ZIP:	60406

Q2

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

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20-2378

Q4

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Violates privacy

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:13:00 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:18:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:21
IP Address: 172.58.143.115

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Rebecca Kohn
Organization (if any): 1977
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60657

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-2378

Q4

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Violation of HIPPA

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:04:47 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:33:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:12
IP Address: 107.215.183.89

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Brian C. Johnson
Organization (if any):	Equality Illinois
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60603

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-2378

Q4

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Equality Illinois, the state's civil rights organization for LGBTQ people, submits the following comment to the Cook County Board for its meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020:

Equality Illinois opposes the proposal to disclose the home addresses of SARS-CoV-2 positive patients to first responders in Cook County. Disclosure of this information could place our first responders and our community at large at greater health risk in two ways. First, it would give our first responders a false sense of assurance when entering homes where no positive test is disclosed. Current research suggests that 50% of those infected with SARS-CoV-2 won't begin showing symptoms for the first five days. The CDC also acknowledges reports on asymptomatic infections. Furthermore, preliminary research suggests that current tests for SARS-CoV-2 could return a false negative 30% of the time. We fear that first responders being told that a household is not a top-tier household for COVID-19 infection could result in them taking action which would expose them to unknown infections.

Second, the fear that the government would share information about a registry of COVID-19 infections beyond the Departments of Public Health would lead to reduced testing. We have learned from other epidemics that individuals are less likely to be tested when they are uncertain how governments will disseminate or use that data. This skepticism is more acute among historically marginalized communities (e.g. the LGBTQ community, communities of color) who have had tense relationships with the mainstream health care industry and with police and fire departments. By reducing testing, we expose our first responders – and the vulnerable people they come into contact with – to greater risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2.

Finally, we also want to acknowledge the civil liberties and privacy concerns that such disclosure creates. Our community functions best when we can trust our government not to disclose our private information to others.

Our first responders are doing hero's work. They are saving lives and strengthening our community. But we think disclosure of this information increases the potential risk to our first responders.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:39:56 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:44:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:47
IP Address: 73.51.25.239

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: John Matz
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60622

Q2**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

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Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

This bill will provide a false sense of security to first responders and will put themselves and the community further at risk.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:35:50 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:49:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:14
IP Address: 73.9.85.238

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: David Ernesto Munar
Organization (if any): Howard Brown Health
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60640

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Resolution 20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

1. First responders are protected ONLY when they treat everyone as a potential coronavirus carrier
2. Sharing addresses of COVID-positives is ineffective, escalates stigma, and discourages testing - all counter to public health

Building public trust is paramount to good public health - this only erodes it and should not become public policy

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:08:15 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:08:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:38
IP Address: 207.237.194.228

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:

Jason Beddigs

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

20-2472

Q4

What do you want to do?

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comments below)**

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

This needs to stop.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:16:50 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:26:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:20
IP Address: 73.210.190.206

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Liz Velek
Organization (if any):	SWOP
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60610

Q2**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

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20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

**DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING and PROVIDE
WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You
may add written comments below)**

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Commissioner Britton -

The proposed legislation 20-2378 to share covid-19 positive persons addresses with first responders is neither just nor safe. Based on disproportionate incidence in minority populations covid-19 has served to accentuate health care inequities in service access, delivery, and results. Sharing private health data will only serve to increase and compound these health injustices by creating more layers of discretionary barriers to access. If you are committed to the health and welfare of all of your constituents you will not pass this policy.

Sincerely,

SWOP Chicago

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:36:53 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:39:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:15
IP Address: 12.168.46.117

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Timothy J. McCarthy
Organization (if any):	Orland Park Police Department
City/Town:	Orland Park
State:	IL
ZIP:	60462

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

Q3

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20-2378

Q4

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Please support this resolution on behalf of all of our first responders and their families in Cook County. We don't want names just addresses so we can be better prepared to serve our residents.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:35:31 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:39:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:40
IP Address: 50.244.2.157

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Chief William Kushner
Organization (if any):	Des Plaines Police Dept.
City/Town:	Des Plaines
State:	IL
ZIP:	60016

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

Q3

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20-2378

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Police Officers respond to assignments "on the fly", and based upon the nature of the assignment, often times DO NOT have adequate time to don PPE before entering a scene. Unnecessary delays (to don PPE) can mean the difference between life and death for innocent victims, and the officers themselves. Withholding address information of COVID-19 positive persons from first responders borders on criminal negligence.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:28:58 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:54:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:15
IP Address: 173.15.38.53

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Ed Petrak
Organization (if any): Brookfield Police Department
City/Town: Brookfield
State: IL
ZIP: 60513

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-2378

Q4

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Cook Board of Commissioners: Thank you for considering this resolution. Regardless of your final decision I know that all of you support our first responders who are serving on the front lines during this e pandemic. While my police officers are doing all that they can to protect themselves, their families and our community from contracting the virus, there's more that can be done. Having the address, just the address, gives us the opportunity to tighten up our gloves, seal off our masks and change out of our uniforms when we're done helping that resident. This gives us an extra layer of protection by providing us with a subtle reminder of what we're up against before entering the situation. We don't need the names of anyone. Just provide us with an address so that we can do more to protect ourselves, our familes and our community. Thank you !

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:54:48 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:58:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:48
IP Address: 96.74.254.109

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Chad Brajercik
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60642

Q2

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

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20-2472

Q4

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As all are aware, the US government was developed not to be ruled by one but ruled for the people with a set of checks and balances. Item 20-2472, unilaterally circumnavigates that ideology. There is no direct reason why in these uncertain times that we cannot maintain our democracy. We are meant to have voices and to be led by many but not by one.

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:52:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:00:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:57
IP Address: 50.244.2.157

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Daniel Anderson
Organization (if any): City of Des Plaines Fire Department
City/Town: Des Plaines
State: IL
ZIP: 60016

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
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Q3

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Resolution 20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

**DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING but REGISTER IN
FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written
comments below)**

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

This information is important to Fire/EMS and Police personnel. While our dispatch centers attempt to get information from callers, caller compliance in answering questions varies greatly including a reluctance to provide truthful responses. By having this information at the dispatch centers, it will better serve our personnel in doing our jobs. We understand privacy issues, however those privacy concerns ultimately go away when we arrive and have to ask the very same questions dispatchers attempted to ask. No one is seeking to improperly utilize the information. We are trusted with peoples lives and property everyday, why would pertinent information be purposely withheld from the very people being trusted to respond to calls for assistance?

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:44:25 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:08:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:53
IP Address: 96.90.103.238

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Kevin Doyle
Organization (if any):	PALOS HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
City/Town:	Palos Heights
State:	IL
ZIP:	60463

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Resolution 20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING but REGISTER IN
FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written
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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

As Fire Chief of the Palos Heights Fire Protection District, I fully support resolution 20-2378. I am charged with the well-being and safety of all of our paramedics and firefighters. During this time of great uncertainty when our men and women are on the front-lines during the greatest fight of our generation, it is absolutely critical that our members have as much information as possible when responding to a building fire or to an ambulance call. Although their lives are at risk every day, our paramedic/firefighters are at a much greater risk during this Covid pandemic and the need for timely, accurate information is more important than it has ever been. I lead a small department with 21 paramedic/firefighters. An exposure to one member could expose our entire staff within 3-5 days and force the closure of our department and the cessation of emergency services to our residents. Please consider allowing the dissemination of critical information regarding Covid positive residents living within our community. It is critical that our members have potentially life-saving information at their disposal on every call, especially medical calls that may expose them, their families, and their co-workers to a deadly virus. I'm certain that your Board is concerned about patient information being shared but I can assure you that our members, along with all members of the fire service, will guard the personal, private medical information of residents in the same way that we have for decades. We are bound by statute and local ordinance to ensure the security of personal medical information of every person we treat. This information is critical to our well-being and, most importantly, the continuation of emergency services that our residents desperately need now more than ever. Please vote to support this resolution.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:59:28 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:29:43 PM
Time Spent: 02:30:14
IP Address: 73.111.205.45

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Sam Forsythe
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60618

Q2**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a**

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

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20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

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OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may add written
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Q5

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I do not feel that providing the Covid19 results of citizens who have tested positive would be beneficial. Since such a small percentage of the population has been tested, this proposal fails to properly recognize the true risk which first responders and law enforcement face. Since so much more of the population is positive then testing results would suggest, we should be treating everyone in every circumstance as though they are sick, and applying the same level of caution with everyone for the safety of our essential work force.

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:53:00 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:54:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:34
IP Address: 67.149.51.17

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Stephanie Chiocca
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60655

Q2

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

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Q3

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20-2472

Q4

What do you want to do?

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OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may add written
comments below)**

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

The Board must be engaged in the governmental process to provide needed oversight and transparency, and taxpayers deserve to have direct representation and participation by their elected county commissioners.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:37:32 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:56:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:41
IP Address: 108.72.222.193

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Katt Ross
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60640

Q2

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
5/21/2020 10a

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Q3

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20-2378

Q4

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Q5

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My name is Katt Ross and I am submitting this comment to oppose the proposed Resolution to Share Addresses for Emergencies (SAFE) with First Responders and share that it does not promote the best health outcomes for our communities.

As it's written, the SAFE with First Responders Resolution would violate the privacy of our community members – and do so with no added benefit to first responders.

First, creating a designation between COVID-19 positive households and others creates a false sense of security for first responders, which could lead to fewer precautions being taken when responding to emergencies. Because there is no way to know if any person has been exposed, contracted, or could transmit COVID-19, the best practice for all first responders and essential workers is to assume any and every person they encounter could be carrying COVID-19, including their colleagues. Universal precautions will make sure first responders are in the best position to protect themselves and the communities they serve.

Second, this policy has the potential to deter people from seeking care. It is clear the SAFE with First Responders Resolution will cause residents to fear that the state will not only store, but will distribute, their private health information. For communities that have experienced HIV stigma and systemic racism – either separately or in conjunction – this resolution will further erode the little trust in existing systems. This Resolution is another step away from trust for the communities who need care the most right now.

Third, and finally, the SAFE with First Responders Resolution has the potential to harm the civil liberties of every Cook County resident. The collection, storage, and sharing of private information, especially private health information, must be done only for significant public health gains, and implemented with the utmost care and in a limited fashion. This Resolution does the opposite. Sharing this information does not benefit the public, and it has the potential to create further disparities in care and in the impact of the pandemic. We have seen the deadly effects of first responders acting out of fear – especially in Black communities. Passing this Resolution invites a new metric of fear and will augment the harm that Black and Latinx communities experience based on racist assumptions and stereotypes.

We know that our first responders are saving lives and strengthening our communities every day. We also know that their work comes with the potential of both harm and healing – to themselves and others. The proposed resolution does not offer them any greater protection, but it does pose great risk to the safety and privacy of every member of our community. It is imperative that this resolution does not move forward. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in regarding the SAFE with First Responders Resolution.
