



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Thursday, September 24, 2020, 10:00 AM

Second Set

[20-3507](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JERRY TAFT

WHEREAS, Jerry Taft was born on March 14, 1943 in Chappaqua, New York; and

WHEREAS, Jerry attended Georgia Tech for one year, then at 19 years old, joined the United States Air Force as a radar technician in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Jerry married his high school sweetheart Shana that same year; and

WHEREAS, Jerry became a pilot, spent a year in Vietnam, and served as a classroom teacher for aviation and flight planning; and

WHEREAS, Jerry studied meteorology at the University of Wisconsin and earned his bachelor's degree in 1969; and

WHEREAS, while in the military in San Antonio, Texas, Jerry met local weatherman Maclovio Perez whom he became friends with; and

WHEREAS, Maclovio was leaving Texas for another job and encouraged Jerry to pursue the meteorologist position; and

WHEREAS, Jerry's meteorologist career took off and in less than six months, Jerry transitioned from Texas to Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Jerry forecast the weather on NBC 5 Chicago for five years; and

WHEREAS, Jerry joined ABC 7 Chicago in August 1984; and

WHEREAS, after forecasting weather on Chicago television for 42 years, Jerry retired on January 19, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Jerry enjoyed his retirement in Florida playing golf and kept his days and outgoing persona busy working part-time as an Uber driver; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his passion for golf, Jerry was known for his love of technology and for his laughter that could fill a room; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Taft passed away on July 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Jerry is survived by his wife Shana, and his children Skylar, Storm, Danna and Jay; and

WHEREAS, Jerry will be sorely missed by friends, family and colleagues throughout Cook County, IL and Florida; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of Jerry Taft.

[20-4360](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), JOHN P. DALEY, PETER N. SILVESTRI, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING ANTHONY LISANTI FOR HIS SERVICE TO COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, after serving at the request of seven County Board Presidents and six different decades of Cook County Commissioners, court reporter Anthony “Tony” Lisanti is retiring in September 2020; and

WHEREAS, Tony was born and raised on the near West Side of Chicago. Grand Avenue neighborhood often referred to as the “Patch,” and

WHEREAS, he grew up with his older brother Bobby and attended Holy Rosary School and Austin High School, and

WHEREAS, after high school he served one tour in the Army. He was stationed in Germany and was trained in explosives. He played on the United States Army baseball team which toured Europe from 1957-1959. Upon returning from overseas, he served two additional years in the reserves, and

WHEREAS, he married the love of his life Janet Bottigliero in October 1962, a partnership in love and family which has lasted nearly 60 years, and

WHEREAS, he soon began his career in court reporting, eventually starting his own court reporting business with two partners, and

WHEREAS, in 1969 he was appointed to his Federal Reporter position where he served under Judge Frank McGar. Judge Henry Alesia, and Judge James Zagel where he would report cases such as the Amoco Cadiz spill and Oakland A’s owner Charlie Finley taking on Major League Baseball.

WHEREAS, in 1966 Janet and he welcomed their first son Joseph; then, soon after, Michael in 1969; and then Bobby in 1973. The family would settle in the Galewood neighborhood and spend parts of summers in Ludington, Michigan creating fond memories for all throughout the 70's and 80's. It was during this time that Tony's children would inherit his love of sports. Nurturing their talents, Tony's children would go on to play many competitive collegiate and professional sports, and

WHEREAS, Tony took on additional work with Cook County Government, serving as a court reporter. Through this time, Tony would capture the proceedings of the Board as it came to shape and define the modern County mission. Before and after the County began audio and video recording of Board meetings, Tony was a frequent presence--never missing a public hearing, Litigation Subcommittee meeting or Budget Night passage, no matter how long into the evening it would run, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary to the Board's office, over the course of his 51 years of service to the County, has benefitted greatly from the work of Tony and his team to capture the proceedings of the Board and its committees, and

WHEREAS, the President, Cook County Board of Commissioners, Cook County staff and all who know Tony wish him well as he now has more time to spend with his wife, his sons families and their nine grandchildren, Luke, Elena, Jake, Anthony, Ava, Luciana, twins Mila and Livia and Antonia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do recognize Anthony Lisanti for all that he has contributed to Cook County Government and wish him all the best for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

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 Anthony Lisanti.

[20-4110](#)

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORABLE JAMES R. THOMPSON, FORMER GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called James R. Thompson from our midst, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was the loving and adored husband to Jayne Carr, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was the loving father to Samantha (Anastasios), and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was the dear grandfather to Persephone, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was born in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Agnes Josephine (Swanson) and James Robert Thompson, a physician, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson graduated from North Park Academy (now North Park University), studied at the University of Illinois at Chicago Navy Pier campus, and at Washington University in St. Louis. He received his J.D. from Northwestern University in 1959, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson worked as an attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's office, taught at Northwestern University's law school and was appointed by President Nixon to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was elected to a two -year term as Governor of Illinois in 1976. Thompson's vote tally of 3,000,395 remains the largest number of votes ever cast for a candidate in an election for Governor of Illinois, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was re-elected to a full four-year term as Governor of Illinois in 1978 with 60 percent of the vote, defeating State Comptroller Michael Bakalis and in 1982 Thompson was re-elected over former U.S. Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was re-elected to his final term as Governor of Illinois in 1986, and

WHEREAS, James R. Thompson was known as "Big Jim" due to his physically imposing height and was known to be an excellent campaigner with a keen understanding of the electorate, and

WHEREAS, as Governor, James R. Thompson, worked to improve the state's infrastructure through the Build Illinois project that aimed to expand highways, repair sewer lines, clean up toxic sites and fund college and university building projects, and

WHEREAS, as Governor, James R. Thompson created the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and helped save the Dana-Thomas House in Springfield, which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and

WHEREAS, as Governor, James R. Thompson worked with state lawmakers in 1988 to secure a legislative agreement that kept the White Sox, the city's favorite baseball team, in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois Center in Chicago was renamed the James R. Thompson Center to honor James R. Thompson's many accomplishments, and

WHEREAS, in 2002, James R Thompson was appointed to serve on the 9/11 Commission, and

WHEREAS, all who knew him will attest that James R. Thompson was a kind and compassionate man, virtuous of character and gentle in spirit, admired and respected by his many friends and neighbors, and dearly loved by his family, 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 and many friends of James R. Thompson, 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 same be tendered to the family of James R. Thompson that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[20-4389](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING MR. RICHARD TOWNSELL FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Richard Townsell is a Chicago (North Lawndale) native and a leader in Community Development.; and

WHEREAS, In Richard's 20+ year career in community development, he has developed nearly 500 units of residential and commercial properties (which have totaled over \$100 MM in total development cost) and helped to design comprehensive community plans for affordable housing, education and economic development initiatives; and

WHEREAS; Richard Townsell was inspired by the teachings of his Church, (Lawndale Christian Community Church), which preaches and teaches "To love God and our neighbors". Mr. Townsell feels that his leadership has impacted the community by working in partnership with other leaders to create a comprehensive plan for the community; and

WHEREAS; Richard Townsell is the Executive Director at the Lawndale Christian Development Corporation. Richard has taught community development courses at Northwestern University's Asset-Based Community Development Institute as well as with the Chicago Rehab Network's Urban Developer's Institute; and

WHEREAS, Richard Townsell holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Northwestern University in Mathematics Education and a Master of Science from Spertus College in Nonprofit Management.; and

WHEREAS, Richard has received many awards for the work including the Fellow of the Year at

Leadership Greater Chicago's 20th anniversary and a Leadership for a Changing World Award from the Ford Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Richard Townsell has been married to his college sweetheart Stephanie for 30 years. They have two adult children, Lena and Gabriel. Richard also coaches youth wrestling in his spare time with Beat the Streets Chicago. He motto is There are gifts, talents and resiliency in the people of the North Lawndale; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Government acknowledges Richard Townsell for transferring lives through community development in the North Lawndale Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner 2nd District on behalf of President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the over five million residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize Richard Townsell for his Outstanding Leadership in Community Development and so wish Richard Townsell every continued success in his future endeavors, and may a copy of this resolution be tendered herewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Richard Townsell, and a copy of the same be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body

[20-4391](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING PAULINE LEWIS-SYLVAIN FOR HER LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, AND DEDICATION TO THE ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Pauline Lewis-Sylvain is a community leader with over 15 years of non-profit management, program in innovation, and implementation in workforce development and financial capability.; and

WHEREAS, Pauline currently serves as the Director of the Roseland Reconnection Hub at Phalanx Family Services. She is responsible for building program strategies that will result in connecting Opportunity Youth (16-24 years old) (OY) to education and employment resources; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the program has connected over 300 Opportunity Youth to services in her first six months at the agency; and

WHEREAS, Pauline Sylvain previously served as the Director of Economic Advancement and Financial Opportunity with the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN), during her time at NLEN, Pauline grew the program budget from \$75K to over \$1.5 million (2010-2018); and

WHEREAS, Pauline was instrumental in increasing the number of participants and also supported the organization as a Financial Coach.; and

WHEREAS, Pauline provided financial literacy and workforce development coaching to participants. In 2019, she initiated the #womenofNLEN initiative, which provided leadership development and mentorship to all women stakeholders of NLEN.; and

WHEREAS, outside of her role at Phalanx, Pauline is the Co-Founder/President of People Empowering People (PEPchicago). An organization built to empower community leaders to become a part of the solution to close the Racial and Women Wealth Gap. PEPchicago also serves as the lead justice navigator to the Get Cleared Illinois, a campaign designed to break the cycle of recidivism.; and

WHEREAS, Pauline holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and is an alumni of the Bank of American Neighborhood Builders Program (2016). Pauline is a member of the Chicago Uplift 2020 Advisory Committee, Young Leaders Fund and an Advisory Board member, the Defy Illinois and a founding member of Women Empowering People Network.; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Government acknowledges Pauline Lewis-Sylvain for transforming lives through community engagement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners as well as the Board of Commissioners along with the 5.3 million residents of Cook County do hereby recognized Pauline Lewis-Sylvain for her invaluable, leadership, dedication and commitment to the residents of Englewood and herewith express our sincere gratitude for your service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to Pauline Lewis-Sylvain and a copy be placed upon the official record of the honorable body recognizing this auspicious occasion

[20-4397](#)

Sponsored by: BRIDGET GAINER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING CHICAGO BOOKS TO WOMEN IN PRISON FOR NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

WHEREAS, Chicago Books to Women in Prison (CBWP) is an all-volunteer group that distributes paperback books free of charge to incarcerated people nationwide, focusing on all women and trans/non-binary people; and,

WHEREAS, CBWP also sends books to jails and other short-term facilities in Chicago; and,

WHEREAS, CBWP was founded in 2002 as a feminist project by a “group of bookworms, archivists and activists” who objected to the penal system and wanted to encourage prisoner solidarity; and,

WHEREAS, books are valuable to this demographic because this is a crucial way to pass time and library privileges are hard to come by; and,

WHEREAS, reading is an important part of an inmate’s overall well-being and helps reduce recidivism and support personal development; and,

WHEREAS, CBWP takes books requests from incarcerated people and matches each request from a stock of thousands of donated books; and,

WHEREAS, CBWP aims to bridge the gap in rehabilitation through its book donation program; and,

WHEREAS, CBWP has sent over 3,000 books in 2020. In 2019 and 2018, the organization sent collectively 29,907 books and composition books to women and trans people locked up across the country; and,

WHEREAS, in honor of September as National Literacy Month, the work of organizations like Chicago Books for Women in Prison is recognized.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and residents of Cook County honor Chicago Books to Women in Prison for National Literacy Month.

20-4393

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF DOROTHY WOODS

WHEREAS, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called from our midst Dorothy Woods on Friday, September 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Woods was born in Wesson, Mississippi on February 26, 1926, the youngest of 14 children born to Albert and Ada (Knight) Woods; and

WHEREAS, during her young life, she moved to Chicago, Illinois and on July 10, 1952, Dorothy was united in marriage to Theophilis Kanion, Sr., together raising four children (three daughters and one son) in the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy was baptized as a member of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago in 1969 and was an active member, serving in many roles such as Sabbath School teacher, choir member, and in the treasury; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy changed her membership to the Goshen Seventh-day Adventist Church when asked to assist with launching their church after a successful summer evangelistic meeting, and would later move her membership back to Shiloh for a short time until she and Theophilis were asked to help start the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy had several jobs throughout her adult life, but her most noted one was as an employee for 18 years at Johnson Publishing Company in Chicago, and after leaving Johnson Publishing, she would spend time as a homemaker and have various part-time jobs; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy and Theopolis lived on the South Side of Chicago until 1993, then moved to Peculiar, Missouri, when they gave up their “city life” to live a more peaceful life raising beef cows and gardening; and

WHEREAS, while living in Missouri, Dorothy pursued her love for helping people learn more about natural living by opening “Nature’s Open Door”, an herbal health food store; and

WHEREAS, in Missouri, they became active members at the Linwood Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kansas City, and Dorothy and Theophilis were constant workers for the Lord with their goal to help lead souls to Christ; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy and Theophilis remained married for 49 years until he fell asleep in Jesus on December 26, 2001, and after his passing Dorothy stayed in Peculiar for a few years, but moved back to Chicago and lived with her daughter, Brenda McCray, for 7 years; She moved back to Missouri and Kansas for a short period before returning to Chicago again in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy was loved by all those who were blessed to know her; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, 13 siblings and her husband; She is survived by her four children; Joveta Kanion, Brenda McCray, Theo Kanion Jr. and Susette (Gregg); seven grandchildren, LaKeisha McCray, Angela McClinton (Michael), Landon Kanion (Shaena), Juanita Farmer (Donald), Kimberly Watson (William), Dylan Lunceford and Hailey Lunceford; 14 great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby offer its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and loved ones of Dorothy Woods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this

Honorable Body and a suitable copy be presented to the family of Dorothy Woods so that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.