



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

**Virtual Meeting**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, November 19, 2020, 10:00 AM**

[20-5319](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING ANTHONY SIMPKINS, NEWLY SELECTED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES**

**WHEREAS,** Anthony Simpkins, will officially join the Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) on November 16, 2020 as the newly selected President and CEO; and

**WHEREAS** Anthony has held multiple roles serving the City of Chicago as Managing Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Housing, he also oversees housing and community policies, programs, and strategic investments. He previously serves as Deputy Commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development focusing on asset management, intergovernmental affairs, housing preservation initiatives and economic development policy; and

**WHEREAS** Simpkins earned his law degree and a Master's in Political Science from Loyola University and began his legal career as a Skadden Foundation fellow at the Legal Assistance Foundation and Lawyers Committee for Better Housing; and

**WHEREAS** Anthony graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois, he worked for the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, the Chicago fair housing organization founded by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2014 Anthony was appointed a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook county by the Illinois Supreme court and served until 2016; and

**WHEREAS** Anthony always maintains an active civic life as well. He is a board member and past-president of the Muslim Bar Association of Chicago, the first association of Muslim lawyers organized in the United States, a former board member of the Cook county Bar Association, the country's oldest organization of African American lawyers, as well as a board member of the Downtown Islamic Center, the RTW Veterans Center and former Managing Editor of the Journal of Islamic Law and Culture; and

**WHEREAS** Anthony is married to Tamaria (Tammy), who is an internationally accomplished Jazz vocalist, curator and educator along with their four children; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby honor and recognize Anthony Simpkins, newly selected President and CEO of Neighborhood Housing Services for his contribution to the viability of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Anthony Simpkins as a means of communicating our appreciation...end

[20-5329](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING MR. REUBEN LEE NORRIS 85TH BIRTHDAY**

**WHEREAS**, On February 17, 2020, Mr. Reuben Lee Norris of Chicago, Illinois celebrated his 85th birthday surrounded by family and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Norris received an Athletic Scholarship to play football at Knoxville College in, Knoxville Tennessee where he became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and received his degree; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduation Ruben Norris was drafted into the military and upon completion received an honorable discharged and later migrated in Chicago, IL in 1960 ; and

**WHEARAS**, For more than 30 years Mr. Reben Lee Norris was employed with the Chicago Park District and served in various capacities including: Weekend Rec Leader, physical instructor, Playground Supervisor, Park Supervisor of Douglas and Avalon Park, Physical Activity Supervisor of areas 1 and 2 , Area Supervisor of 36 parks and then Host Park Manager until his retirement in 1992. After retiring from the park district, Ruben Norris began a full-time position with the Chicago Public School System at King High School for than 20 years until his retirement for CPS in 2016;and

**WHEREAS**, Ruben Norris is a kind gentle man whose faith is deeply rooted in the Lord. He is a faithful member of 25 years of St.Thomas Episcopal Church where he serves as a Deputy Warden ; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruben Norris served as a basketball official for 43 years traveling the country. He is known throughout the State of Illinois but especially in Chicago as the God Father of basketball officials. He has officiated former President Barack Obama in a private game in Chicago as well as Michael Jordan. In addition, from 1972-1992 he coached/and managed” The Chicago Boston Shoot Out Team” which provided visibility to many NBA Players and coaches such as Doc Rivers, Mark Aguirre, Juan Howard and Hersey Hawkins just to name a few. He has also served as an NBA observer and scout of officials for 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruben Norris is the First African American to enter the All American Soap Box Derby in 1940; First Women’s Professional Basketball League Championship official in 1981 in Chicago, IL; First African American from CPS League to officiate in the IHSA Tournament in 1987; First African American to officiate the State Finals game in 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruben Norris has received numerous awards and recognition's but not limited to the following: 1994- Black Role Model Habilitative System Inc; 1994 Chicago Basketball Coaches Association (Official); 1999- Illinois Basketball Coaches Association) Official 2014 Illinois High School Association 40-year Recipient Awardee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that President Preckwinkle along with the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County takes great pleasure in honoring and celebrating Mr. Rueben Lee Norris on the occasion of his 85th Birthday and wishes him continued health and happiness for years to come.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution is shared upon the official proceedings of this honorable body and that an official copy of the same is tendered to Mr. Reuben Lee Norris in honor of this auspicious occasion

[20-5087](#)

**Sponsored by:** PETER N. SILVESTRI, 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, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

##### **SISTER MICHELLE GERMANSON, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called Sister Michelle Germanson from our midst on October 21, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle Germanson professed her vows as a Sinsinawa Dominican Sister in 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle taught at St. Mark School in Peoria and at St. Cajetan School in Chicago, before becoming principal at Saints Peter and Paul in Wheat Ridge, Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle returned to Illinois, serving as dean of students at Rosary College (now Dominican University) in River Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle has been credited with saving Trinity High School, which was at the brink of closure in 1992 when she decided to accept the position as president at the River Forest school; and

**WHEREAS**, upon assuming her role as president, Sister Michelle built strong relationships with alumnae and the community, touted the school's all-female identity despite market pressures to become co-ed, and implemented block scheduling to allow for more collaborative learning, rightfully believing that her students

would thrive in this environment; and

**WHEREAS**, under Sister Michelle's leadership, Trinity instituted the prestigious International Baccalaureate program, resulting in being featured in *Newsweek* in 2017 as one of the best International Baccalaureate programs in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle's spirit and determination were contagious as reflected in Trinity seniors' one-hundred percent college acceptance rate; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle's love of Chicago sports and commitment to having a well-rounded student body propelled her to undertake large projects, such as the construction of an athletic facility, a health and fitness center, and a technology center; and

**WHEREAS**, in her final days, Sister Michelle was surrounded by many members of the Trinity community as well as her beloved Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Michelle's larger-than-life personality leaves a legacy that will only grow with time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sister Michelle Germanson and to her Trinity family; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the family of Sister Michelle and to Trinity High School so that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[20-5111](#)

**Sponsored by:** PETER N. SILVESTRI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RICHARD J. SANTIAGO, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, 2020, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called Richard J. Santiago from our midst; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Jose Santiago was born on August 9, 1989, and was the beloved son of Richard and Betsy; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago was the devoted father of Janius Amani Santiago; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago was the loving fiancé of Priscilla Echevarria; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago was the dearest older brother of Kiani; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago was the cherished nephew, uncle, cousin, and friend to many; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago graduated from Oswego East High School and Triton College and lived in the Belmont-Craigin neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, in his youth, Richard Santiago loved playing baseball and as an adult enjoyed his Jeep and riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago's priority was his family, and he dedicated himself to them in everything he did; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago especially loved being a father to Janius and taking family trips; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago worked for the Cook County Sheriff's Office as a corrections officer for seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, during his time as a corrections officer, Richard Santiago became close friends with his fellow deputies and was known for having a great sense of humor; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Santiago earned the respect of his colleagues and was admired by all for being polite, respectful, and considerate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of Richard Santiago; 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 Richard Santiago so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[20-5540](#)

**Sponsored by:** PETER N. SILVESTRI, 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, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE EDWARD MOODY FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AND FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS THE FINAL COOK COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS**

**WHEREAS**, Edward M. Moody was raised on the Southwest Side of Chicago, and currently resides in

the southwest suburbs where he continues to be active in his community; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, Edward married his childhood sweetheart Victoria and they formed a partnership of love and family that has lasted 32 years, and together had the privilege of raising their nephew, Ryan; and

**WHEREAS**, Edward began his career in Cook County government in 1990 and served for 25 years as the Court Coordinator for the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. His many years of public service also include his positions as Chairman of the Worth Township Fair Housing Review Board, Worth Township Highway Commissioner, Board President and Board Member of School District 127.5, and President of the Governing Board of the Eisenhower Special Education Cooperative; and

**WHEREAS**, from October 2016 to December 2018, Edward served as the Cook County Commissioner and Forest Preserve Commissioner representing the Sixth District. Commissioner Edward Moody served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and member of numerous committees. His contributions to good government were many and greatly benefited the residents of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 4, 2018, with the support of President Preckwinkle, Edward Moody was elected by a unanimous vote of the Cook County Board of Commissioners to the position of Cook County Recorder of Deeds; and

**WHEREAS**, Recorder Moody has traversed many great operational obstacles caused by COVID-19 and has used technology to overcome those obstacles. For the first time, military veterans can now apply for the Recorder's Military discount card online. Recorder Moody has also implemented technology that allowed for remote e-filing and indexing of documents for the first time in history; and

**WHEREAS**, Recorder Moody led his office toward a successful merger with the Cook County Clerk's Office, thereby helping to make Cook County government more efficient and saving Cook County taxpayers millions of dollars. Upon the merging of the Recorder of Deeds Office with the Cook County Clerk, Recorder Moody will pursue new public service opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board President, Cook County Board of Commissioners, Cook County staff, and all who know Edward wish him well as he will have more time to pursue his plans for continued public service and to spend more time with his wife and family

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize Edward M. Moody for all that he has contributed to Cook County government and wish him all the best for a long, healthy, and happy retirement; and

**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 Edward M. Moody.