



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:00 AM

Second Set

[21-1780](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING MS. SUSIE B. KYLES

WHEREAS, This is a joyous occasion to celebrate our matriarch Ms. Susie B. Kyles, born February 23, 1921; and

WHEREAS, 100 years of life is a blessing in itself, God is so good to the Kyles family; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kyles arrived in Chicago from Greenville, Mississippi in 1964, with plans to live a great life and that she has; and

WHEREAS, as a servant of Christ, it was important that Ms. Kyles find a church home to serve the Lord;; and

WHEREAS, she planted her feet at the Centennial M.B. Church under the leadership of Rev. Hosie Robinson in 1966 to present; and

WHEREAS, . Ms. Kyles retired from the Blackstone Hotel in 1983; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed Ms. Kyles with (9) beautiful children, (26) grandchildren, (47) great-grandchildren, and (5) great-great children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kyles favorite song is *I'm still here*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, honor Susie B. Kyles and praise her essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County.

[21-1828](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP CHARLES MASON FORD

WHEREAS Bishop Charles Mason Ford, was born on January 3, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois. Son to Bishop Louis Henry Ford and Margaret Little Ford; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Ford, served his church for several decades as its radio broadcast announcer, known as the voice of St. Paul, he also served as First Jurisdiction-Illinois as Director of Urban Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford was ordained by his father, Bishop Louis Henry Ford in 1982 and 1989 he was appointed Church of God in Christ National Director of urban Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford in 1995 served as pastor after the death of his father. In 1997 he was appointed Superintendent of the Bishop Louis Henry Ford Memorial District. Bishop Ford has held a number of titles and positions within the church however the most memorable one is when he was recommended to become Auxiliary Bishop in 2001 and was approved in May of 2003; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford was a retired public servant, where he was Deputy Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Human Services. He never stopped serving his community. He successfully received funding to build a 60-unit independent living senior housing complex and a 24-unit building for disabled individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford renovated a former CHA building to develop the St. Paul Community Development and family Center. This center would service residents from the surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford was an authentic trailblazer, pioneer and dedicated father, he was also a true advocate for his church and community; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford passed away on Monday, February 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Mason Ford is survived by his wife Marlene, Sons, Elder Kevin Ford, Louis Ford, Corey Ford, Daughters, Jaqueline and Christi; 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 Bishop Charles Mason Ford and honor the life and memory of this outstanding Cook County resident.

[21-1851](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DR. KIRAN JOSHI

WHEREAS, Dr. Kiran Joshi is Senior Medical Officer and Interim Co-Lead of the Cook County Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joshi completed medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago and trained in Preventive Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Family Medicine at Illinois Masonic Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joshi before joining Cook County Health, was the attending physician at Northwestern residency program, where he supervised Family Medicine residents, as well as overseeing the electronic health record deployment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joshi was a consultant to the World Health Organization, where he provided technical assistance in the development of trainings for health workers in the sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joshi remains committed to advancing the health equity in suburban Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joshi stepped into the role of Interim Co-Lead of the Cook County Department of Public Health in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since the onset of the pandemic Dr. Joshi, alongside with Dr. Rubin, and in partnership with Cook County Health and Cook County government, has led CCDPH's pandemic response providing guidance and technical assistance to community stakeholders, crafting mitigation policies, overseeing contact tracing efforts and developing partnerships for vaccine distribution; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joshi has been an authoritative voice on the coronavirus pandemic, has conducted various equity town hall forums to educate Cook County residents on how to reduce the spread of covid-19 and has promoted public health messaging campaigns to "wear your mask", "wash your hands" and "practice social distancing"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, and with the encouragement and support of the Cook County Health & Hospital System, hereby recognize Dr. Kiran Joshi's dedication and commitment to protecting the public health of the residents of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Dr. Joshi as a means of communicating our appreciation.

[21-1852](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DR. RACHEL RUBIN

WHEREAS, Dr. Rachel Rubin is Senior Medical Officer and Interim Co-Lead of the Cook County Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rubin graduated from Rush Medical College Medical School in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rachel Rubin a General Practitioner, specializing in Infectious Disease Medicine and Preventative Medicine has over 37 years of experience; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rubin clinical responsibilities include treating a wide variety of infectious diseases;

WHEREAS, as a trained educator, Dr. Rubin works side-by-side with patients educating them on traveling to places around the world that have high rates of infectious diseases and helping them to make choices resulting in a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rubin stepped into the role of Interim Co-Lead of the Cook County Department of Public Health in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since the onset of the pandemic Dr. Rubin, alongside with Dr. Joshi and in partnership with Cook County Health and Cook County government, has led CCDPH's pandemic response providing guidance and technical assistance to community stakeholders, crafting mitigation policies, overseeing contact tracing efforts and developing partnerships for vaccine distribution; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rubin has been an authoritative voice on the coronavirus pandemic, has conducted various equity town hall forums to educate Cook County residents on how to reduce the spread of covid-19 and has promoted public health messaging campaigns to "wear your mask", "wash your hands" and "practice social distancing"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, and with the encouragement and support of the Cook County Health & Hospital System, hereby recognize Dr. Rachel Rubin's dedication and commitment to protecting the public health of the residents of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Dr. Rubin as a means of communicating our appreciation.

[21-1830](#)

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

ALVA "AL" BESST, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Alva “Al” Besst from our midst, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was the devoted son of the late Alva E. Besst Sr. and Frances Besst, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was the dear brother of the late Joyce (the late William) O’Dette and the late Jean Besst, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was the fond uncle of the late Robert Besst and Linda O’Dette, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was a lifelong resident of the Bridgeport neighborhood in Chicago, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was a longtime volunteer at the First Lutheran Church of the Trinity’s volunteer-run God’s Closet program that provides meals and clothing to residents in need, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst joined First Lutheran Church of the Trinity’s congregation and took an active role in the Church’s Sunday services, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was a member of the Bridgeport Alliance community group, and

WHEREAS Alva “Al” Besst was a generous and giving man who was quick to lend hand to friends and neighbors in need, and

WHEREAS all who knew him will attest that Alva “Al” Besst 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 and his congregation, 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 Alva “Al” Besst 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 Alva “Al” Besst that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[21-1815](#)

Sponsored by: BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION PRESIDENT EMITA KAREN JENNINGS LEWIS WHO TRANSITIONED FROM THIS WORLD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2021

WHEREAS, Karen Jennings Lewis was a lifelong Chicagoan, the daughter of public school teachers and a proud a product of Chicago Public Schools, who learned how to stand up for herself and her community as a student at her beloved Kenwood Academy High School; and

WHEREAS, from her days as the only Black woman in her class at Dartmouth College and throughout her life, Ms. Lewis exemplified how powerful, Black women can lead with strength, grace, dignity and love; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis was a renaissance woman, speaking three languages, mastering two musical instruments, a lover of opera, musical theater and comedy; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lewis met her beloved husband John Lewis as they both pursued their passion for education as teachers at Lane Tech, and celebrated 20 happy and fulfilling years together during her life; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis was a dedicated, skilled, life-long educator, having attained multiple degrees and National Board Certification, the highest honor awarded to educators; and

WHEREAS, as an educator, Ms. Lewis saw children as precious resources to be nurtured and loved in classrooms filled with joy, creativity and excitement - more than test scores or data points on a spreadsheet; and

WHEREAS, as president of the Chicago Teachers Union, Ms. Lewis worked to unify Chicago educators around a platform of common good demands to support the needs of the students, families and communities Chicago Public Schools serves; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis led the historic 2012 strike which demonstrated the renewed power and solidarity of the Chicago Teachers Union, helped reinvigorate Chicago's labor movement, and sparked the Red for Ed movement across the country demanding dignity and respect for educators and public schools; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis fearlessly confronted the rich and powerful who felt entitled to impose their privatization agenda on schools serving the predominantly low-income Black and Brown students who attend Chicago Public Schools and tirelessly fought for Chicago's children to receive the quality, well-resourced schools they deserve; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the Chicago Teachers Union fought the closing of 50 schools in Black and Brown neighborhoods, stalled charter school expansion that drains resources from public schools and pushed for fully-resourced, equitably funded neighborhood schools; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis helped reshape the political landscape in Chicago, paving the way for new, progressive, independent voices to win election at the state, county and city level; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis fought for the soul of public education, challenged education apartheid and transformed the education justice movement into a force to be reckoned with in the halls of power; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis used her voice to change the terms of debate about what ails our education system and force an honest conversation about the deep-seated racism and segregation that plague Chicago and its schools to this day; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis empowered tens of thousands of Chicago teachers, families and students who joined her fight for the schools Chicago children deserve and continue to live by her principals and vision for a quality, equitable, well-funded public school system for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County hereby expresses its deep sadness over the passing of a remarkable educator and freedom fighter and with this resolution honors the life and work of Ms. Karen Jennings Lewis.

[21-1802](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING ELGIN ARTIST FREDDRICK D. WIMMS

WHEREAS, Fredrick D. Wimms is a longtime Elgin resident and artist; and

WHEREAS, Wimms was selected to curate a Black History Month exhibit at Side Street Studio Arts; and

WHEREAS, Wimms put together an exhibit titled, “Black Then, Black Now, and Black in the Middle”; and

WHEREAS, the Black History Month exhibit features 30 local and national artists that includes photography, painting, drawing and mixed media; and

WHEREAS, Wimms stated that he wanted the exhibit to reflect the spirit of the Black experience in America; and

WHEREAS, Side Street Studio Arts was founded in 2013 as an outlet for the Elgin arts scene; and

WHEREAS, Side Street Studio Arts offers educational programs with a mission to support the artist and artistic journey through collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wimm’s dedication and creative vision is vital to the representation of the Black experience in Elgin and Cook County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Mr. Fredrick D. Wimms and the Black History Month exhibit at Side Street Studio Arts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to Mr. Fredrick D. Wimms and Side Street Studio Arts.

[21-1811](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

WHEREAS, the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights (FUMCAH) adopted an inclusive statement in 2009, “We celebrate humanity’s diversity of age, racial and ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, special needs, socio-economic conditions, and family status. Created in the image of God, all persons are worthy of God’s love and grace and welcomed into full participation in the life of our congregation.”; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH has lived these values while facing a string of hateful acts where a rainbow Pride flag was vandalized or ripped down several time over the course of six months; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH hosted a Pride Parade of Lights on January 17th; and

WHEREAS, a gathering of 200 people including church members and other community members marched with lights and stood with lit candles along Euclid Rd. to counteract the hateful acts and love boldly; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH has shown its commitment to radical inclusivity for years through its programming and ministry; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH established it’s Reconciling Ministry over a decade ago which is dedicated to seeking justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; and

WHEREAS, the Reconciling Ministry participates in local LGBTQ events including Pride Parades to show their full support of the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, the Reconciling Ministry also offers workshops on how to incorporate the use of pronouns, normalize the practice, and to support people that are going by different pronouns; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH offers the Pinwheels Support Group where parents with transgender children

and their siblings have a safe space to meet where the kids can play together while the parents share experiences and resources; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH hosts a Rainbow Circle, a group for LGBTQ Christians to gather regularly to share their experience, worship, and attend social events; and

WHEREAS, this church community represents the inclusivity that is vital to realizing equity for the LGBTQ and other marginalized communities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights for the outstanding work they do in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, Lead Pastor Melissa Earley, Pastor of Faith Formation Lynn Mikels, and the Chair of the Reconciling Ministry Thom Frerk.

[21-1832](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST DURING 2020 IN COOK COUNTY DUE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation giving the state access to state money and possibly federal reimbursement for the costs of fighting the potentially deadly illness; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle found that the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act and a disaster under the Cook County Code of Ordinances Sec. 26-36 and issued a proclamation of disaster for Cook County activating Cook County's emergency operations plan; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has been the worst healthcare and economic crisis in most of our lifetimes, disrupting our lives in innumerable ways, and far too many souls have succumbed to this terrible disease; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented level of disparities in healthcare outcomes during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic especially in the African-American and Latinx Communities in Chicago and Cook County has been particularly devastating; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 a total of 8,316 lives were lost in Cook County as a result of contracting COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to honor and remember those who perished by conducting a wreath laying ceremony in the lobby of the County Building at 118 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL on March 10, 2021, which marks the one-year anniversary of the County's initial disaster proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the ceremony will also serve to memorialize and stand as a tragic reminder that we must remain vigilant even while we are being vaccinated so that we can protect our friends, loved ones and neighbors as we work in unity to overcome this pandemic and limit the number of lives lost in the coming year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, commemorates the lives of the Cook County residents who died from COVID-19 in 2020, and does hereby offer its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to their families and loved ones; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a wreath laying ceremony shall be held in the lobby of the County Building at 118 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL on March 10, 2021, which marks the one-year anniversary of the County's initial disaster proclamation, to honor and remember those who perished in 2020 due to COVID-19; and

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