



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Details (With Text)

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------|--|
| <b>File #:</b>       | 24-3211                     | <b>Version:</b>      | 1 | <b>Name:</b> | HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND WALTER "SLIM" COLEMAN |
| <b>Type:</b>         | Consent Calendar Resolution | <b>Status:</b>       |   |              | Approved   |
| <b>File created:</b> | 5/14/2024                   | <b>In control:</b>   |   |              | Board of Commissioners   |
| <b>On agenda:</b>    | 6/13/2024                   | <b>Final action:</b> |   |              | 6/13/2024  |
| <b>Title:</b>        | PROPOSED RESOLUTION         |                      |   |              |  |

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND WALTER "SLIM" COLEMAN

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman lived a beautiful life filled with friends and family. Unfortunately, he lost his life on April 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman's activist and organizing work in Chicago dates back to the Civil Rights and antiwar movements of the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman was raised in Lubbock, Texas before entering Harvard University on a scholarship. He left Harvard a month before graduation to begin his work in activism but returned to finish his education there almost 20 years later; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman traveled to Cleveland, Ohio to work at the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee under the leadership of James Forman. This organization consisted mainly of Black college students who practiced peaceful, direct-action protests that ultimately led to civil rights victories; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman and Kathy Archibald - two white Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee members - moved to Chicago in 1966 and joined the activist organization Students for a Democratic Society; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman and Kathy Archibald worked together to establish the People's Information Center in Lincoln Park. This center collaborated with the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords activist group, led by the well-known activist Jose "Cha Cha" Jimenez; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman collaborated with Fred Hampton to establish the Rainbow Coalition in Chicago. The Coalition was a combination of the Illinois Black Panther Party, the Young Lords, and the Young Patriots Organization. The Young Patriots Organization was a leftist organization primarily comprised of white migrants from Appalachia and was based in Uptown; and

WHEREAS, as a community organizer in the Uptown neighborhood in the 1970's, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman organized the International Survival Committee - an auxiliary to the Black Panther Party - along with future Chicago Alderwoman Helen Shiller; and

WHEREAS, the Committee later became known as the Heart of Uptown Coalition, a political and social service organization focused on needs such as access to affordable housing, medical care, legal aid; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman played a significant role in Harold Washington's successful campaign to become Chicago's first Black mayor in 1983, particularly in the crucial voter registration effort; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980's and early 1990s, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman split his work between Uptown and West Town/Bucktown communities with a focus on serving the needs of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman married activist the Rev. Emma Lozano and went on to raise his children Robert Rico, Anita Rico, Tanya Lozano, Joline Lozano, and Roberto C. Lopez and six grandchildren a family; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter "Slim" Coleman earned a Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Later, he became the pastor of Adalberto United Methodist Church in the Humboldt Park neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the church gained notoriety for providing sanctuary for Elvira Arellano, an undocumented immigrant who herself became well-known as an immigration rights activist; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman and his wife Rev. Emma Lozano spent many years as the spiritual leaders for Adalberto and the sister church Lincoln United Methodist in Pilsen - with a significant focus on ministry for immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman also worked as an aide to former United States Representative Luis Gutierrez for ten years; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman also served as the Director of the Familia Latina Unida Medical Reserve Corps; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman is an inspiration for Chicago and the country and the legacy he has left behind will transcend generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby hold in reverence in honor of the historic legacy of Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman, as we offer our deepest condolences to his friends, family, and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Rev. Walter “Slim” Coleman as an honorable expression of appreciation for his life and work. ...end

**Sponsors:**

ALMA E. ANAYA, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

| Date      | Ver. | Action By              | Action  | Result |
|-----------|------|------------------------|---------|--------|
| 6/13/2024 | 1    | Board of Commissioners | approve | Pass   |
| 5/16/2024 | 1    | Board of Commissioners | defer   | Pass   |

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