



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Details

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<b>File #:</b>	24-3738	<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Name:</b>	CELEBRATING THE POETRY PERFORMANCE OF CHRISTIANNA GRAY
<b>Type:</b>	Consent Calendar Resolution	<b>Status:</b>			Approved
<b>File created:</b>	6/12/2024	<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				

### CELEBRATING THE POETRY PERFORMANCE OF CHRISTIANNA GRAY AT THE "I WILL" FLAG RAISING

WHEREAS, Christianna Gray is a proud Cook County resident who just graduated from eighth grade at Calvin Christian School; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, Christianna was an integral part of the inaugural raising of the "I Will" flag, performing the poem "Cook County As A Brand," written by her mentor Orlando Ceaser, at just 11 years old; and

WHEREAS, Christianna thoughtfully and painstakingly chose this poem as she found that it best represented the creation of a new Cook County flag and how it could, in turn, represent a change in the way Cook County residents view themselves; and

WHEREAS, Christianna's passion for her craft was apparent in her performance at the "I Will" flag raising, and was met with much celebration; and

WHEREAS, Christianna has been an ardent linguist from a young age, speaking in complete sentences at a mere nine months old; and

WHEREAS, Christianna's love for words has blossomed as she has grown, and she has found herself drawn to poetry and the ability to put parts of herself into her work; and

WHEREAS, Christianna is a second generation motivational speaker who is passionate about expressing herself and encouraging others use their voices for change; and

WHEREAS, Christianna is known for her kindness, compassion, activism, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, in addition to writing her own poetry, Christianna enjoys reading and travel in her free time; and

WHEREAS, as she looks to the future, Christianna plans to become a lawyer and a neurologist through a full scholarship she has already received to Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Christianna finds herself inspired by the elected officials she has seen and met who are personal in their approach to problems, and who take a genuine interest in the well-being of the residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the full text of "Cook County As A Brand" as written by Orlando Ceaser and performed by Christianna reads:

A county of neighborhoods  
and many factions.

A thriving business community

with cosmopolitan interactions.  
The county of broad shoulders,  
The county that works.  
The county of many names  
and many claims.  
That tries to be scandal resistant  
to shake off the strain  
of people being distant.  
A legacy of patronage and partisan politics,  
strong unions and labor  
that sparsely integrated  
so, we look like our neighbors.  
We have a brand that must be respected.  
Or should I say repaired and respected.  
These are the times when the brand is a sale  
by those who perceive that we have failed.  
But aggressive opponents should understand  
Cook County is working on a better brand.  
Rebrand the county.  
Not as a public relations ploy,  
or publicity stunt.  
Recapture the neighborhoods  
so citizens will enjoy it  
more than Millennium Park and the lake front.  
But the championships and competition  
The legacy of a rich tradition  
of excellence in science and the arts.  
Where business percolates and new Starts  
provide a hopeful and refreshing atmosphere  
Pertaining to training  
this sustaining and sincere.  
What a brand where energy and pride  
courses through our collective veins  
as our hearts beat the resources excite our spirits as our brains  
Trade provocative innovation,  
better quality in education  
as police equally enforced loss with greater cooperation.  
If we establish strong coalitions  
with people of faith and their traditions  
with differences and depositions,  
a relationship as a transition  
to seek as we trust  
to rebuild confidence  
that justice is just.  
And when we do this and people trust  
we reduce animosity  
increase innovation and curiosity.  
As a mecca for music we invite crowds  
to witness the culture of which we are proud.  
Festivals, festivities and cuisine  
that amidst of political machines.  
but it is all for the common and greater good.  
Rebrand Cook County  
and its neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby celebrate and honor Christianna Gray for her artistic poetry performance at the inaugural "I Will" flag raising in September 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of the Resolution be tendered to Christianna Gray as a means of communicating our thanks and well wishes in all her future endeavors.

**Sponsors:**

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

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ver.</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Result</b>
6/13/2024	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass