



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 15-0774, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAULA MATELA ON HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2014, Paula Matela will retire after 27 years of service with Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Paula spent the last 20 years in the Office of the Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and was promoted to Deputy Secretary in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Paula, the daughter of the late Armando and Carmina Popolla, was born Paola Popolla on June 6, 1963 in Amaseno, Italy, and is the youngest of five children; and

WHEREAS, Paula has a brother, Franco, and sister, Lucia, who still live in Italy and two brothers, Robert and Enzo, who live in Chicago Heights; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Armando Popolla and Paula's brother, Robert, came to the United States and settled in Chicago Heights, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Paula came to the United States on August 23, 1973 with her mother, Carmina, and brother, Enzo, to join her father and brother in Chicago Heights and Paula eventually changed her name from Paola to Paula; and

WHEREAS, at 10 years old, Paula's new life in the United States was difficult due to her not knowing any English; and

WHEREAS, Paula attended Garfield Elementary school, in Chicago Heights, where she had a difficult time because of the language barrier, as she once told her mother that if there was an airplane in front of their house, she would get on it and fly back to Italy; and

WHEREAS, Paula eventually learned English and developed her personality that earned her the nickname "52 pounds of rompin' stompin'" from her 4th grade teacher; and

WHEREAS, Paula continued her education at Bloom High School, graduating in 1981, and earning her Associates Degree in Secretarial Studies at Prairie State College in May of 1984; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 1989, Paula married Nicholas Matela; and

WHEREAS, Paula and Nick have been married for 25 years and are the proud parents of Michael and Matthew Matela; and

WHEREAS, Paula began her professional career, in 1984, as Assistant Secretary for the Mayor of Chicago Heights, Charles Panici; and

WHEREAS, Paula came to Cook County in 1987 to work for Cook County Commissioner Robert Gooley; and

WHEREAS, when Commissioner Gooley retired in 1994, Paula went to work for the Office of the Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners where she was promoted to Deputy Secretary in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Paula's vibrant "rompin' stompin'" personality, hard work, integrity, loyalty and extensive knowledge of the County and the Board of Commissioners will truly be missed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners that we hereby thank Paula Matela for her 27 years of service to Cook County and congratulate her on her retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Board and a suitable copy be presented to Paula Matela.