File #: 15-2685, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2013 leaders from Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kendall County, Lake County, McHenry County, Will County and the City of Chicago began meeting to work together and develop strategies to strengthen the region's economic development growth and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, these seven counties and the City of Chicago make up the Chicago metropolitan area, as defined by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago metropolitan area has an estimated 8.4 million residents and metropolitan areas are the engines of the global economy; and

WHEREAS, the elected chief executive leadership from each of the seven counties and the City of Chicago may designate staff to work with colleagues from the Chicago Regional Growth Initiative on any current and future economic development initiatives, including but not limited to increasing exports from small and medium sized business, streamlining truck permitting and routing, and supporting, strengthening and growing the region's metal manufacturing firms; and any other initiatives agreed upon by the group; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Regional Growth Initiative is free to pursue and secure financial support from public, non-profit and philanthropic sources for any current and future initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Regional Growth Initiative may proceed with future initiatives related to foreign direct investment, other industry clusters, workforce and training, infrastructure investment and/ or resiliency planning; and

WHEREAS, any economic development corporation(s) that function as the economic development arm for any of the seven counties or the City of Chicago may act as a fiscal agent for any of these current or future initiatives as appropriate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the importance of ongoing collaboration and planning that helps strengthen economic development opportunities in the Chicago metropolitan area so they endorse this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development will designate the appropriate person(s) to represent the County as a member of the Chicago Regional Growth Initiative to participate in current and future regional economic development initiatives.