



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 17-4441, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF WILLIAM “BILL” DREW**

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called William “Bill” Drew of Waukegan from our midst on May 14, 2017 at the age of 69; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew contributed an enormous amount to his community of McKinley Park and the greater southwest side of Chicago, where he lived, loved, organized, and nurtured the community for the past 38 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew has touched the lives of hundreds of individuals throughout his longstanding fight for justice and social change; during his college days, he was involved in the anti-war movement at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1972, Bill Drew moved to Milwaukee where he became the editor of the Milwaukee Worker, where he organized and wrote stories about the struggles of the factory workers and minorities in the Cream City; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew moved to Chicago in 1979 where he taught English as a second language to Mexican immigrants at Robert Fulton Elementary in the Back of the Yards, and where he also worked as an intake counselor for dislocated factory workers of the stockyards; and

**WHEREAS**, it was in this neighborhood that Bill Drew met his beautiful wife, Gloria, whom he described as “incredibly strong, hard-working, and disciplined and the best thing that ever happened to me”; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew was a tireless activist and leader, always pushing ahead with ways to make a positive difference in people’s lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew had multiple talents, and was a computer programmer and a tenacious and thoughtful organizer; and

**WHEREAS**, one of Bill Drew’s greatest talents was his ability to find ways to collaborate and build relationships with people far and wide; there are few people who have had such a profound impact in the political empowerment of working and immigrant communities in the southwest side of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, during his later years, he worked furiously to create a space where McKinley Park residents could come together and use their collective power to improve their community and to fight for the rights of working families; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew’s effort, which he named the McKinley Park Progressive Alliance, later morphed into the creation of the 12th Ward Independent Political Organization- which has propelled community engagement and served as an epitome for civic engagement in other wards of the southwest side of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Drew’s spirit and legacy live on in the hearts of the hundreds of people whose lives he touched; he is survived by his wife, Gloria, and his two sons, Richard “Ricky” Drew and William D. “Billy” Drew Jr.- whom he often referred to as his “biggest pride and joy”; and his siblings, Nora Renzulli, Jane Waller, and John Drew.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of William “Bill” Drew, and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the family of William “Bill” Drew so that his memory may be honored and ever cherished.