File #: 18-2621, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING ARAB AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICES

WHEREAS, Arab American Family Services (AAFS) is a nonprofit social service agency that provides caring, compassionate assistance to South Suburban Chicagoland residents, with special sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic needs of Arab Americans; and

WHEREAS, AAFS was established in 2001 by Itedal Shalabi and Nareman Taha, two women who witnessed the dire need for a social service agency that advocates and addresses the issues and concerns of the Arab-American community; and

WHEREAS, AAFS offers support in the areas of public benefits, ESL and civics, immigration services, domestic violence prevention and intervention, mental health, and elderly services; and

WHEREAS, AAFS also sponsors outreach programs to build healthier families and communities as well as cultivate respect and understanding of Arab-American culture; and

WHEREAS, AAFS is making a profound and positive impact in their community by actively seeking to confront the myths and taboos that have kept some Arab Americans from obtaining the assistance they need and by helping local neighbors overcome personal crises, strengthen their families, and live healthier, more successful lives; and

WHEREAS, AAFS will hold the *Spirit of Empowerment Black Tie Fundraising Gala* on Saturday, March 24, 2018 to celebrate Arab Americans both locally and nationally and their social, economic, cultural, and political achievements to society as well as their steadfast willingness to make a difference; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, recognize the importance of Arab American Family Services and their essential contribution to the health and viability of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceeding of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to Arab American Family Services.