



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-1418, **Version:** 1

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### HONORING MARY LANE, LEGENDARY BLUES SINGER

**WHEREAS**, Mary Lane is a legendary Blues singer born on November 23, 1935 in Clarendon, Arkansas; and

**WHEREAS**, at a young age, Mary was a street performer before commencing her career as a teenager in Marvell, Arkansas with slide guitar great Robert Nighthawk; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary has also worked with one-man band Joe Hill Louis (known as the Be-Bop Boy), Junior Parker, James Cotton, and sat in with Howlin' Wolf at the White Swan, her uncle's club in Brinkley, Arkansas; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1957, Mary Lane relocated to the Chicagoland area, originally settling 40 miles north in Waukegan, and initiating a longstanding personal relationship with guitarist Morris Pejoe, who recorded for Checker, Vee-Jay, and other local labels; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary and Morris moved to Chicago in 1961, and while singing with Pejoe's band as Little Mary, she cut her debut single "You Don't Want My Lovin' No More" circa 1964 for Fred Young's Friendly Five label; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary performed with Buddy Guy and Junior Wells at the famed Checkerboard Lounge and managed the famous Pepper's Lounge on South Michigan Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary recorded her first full-length album, *Appointment for the Blues* in 1997 at 61 years old and just completed her second full-length album at 83 years old, *Travelin' Woman*; and

**WHEREAS**, Women of the Blues Records, in partnership with OWL Music & Media, will release *Travelin' Woman* on March 8th, 2019 in commemoration of Women's Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary is the subject of a new documentary about her life, "I Can Only Be Mary Lane", which premiered in London, England and at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago on her 83rd birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary Lane and her husband Jeff Labon are a well-known Chicago Blues band, The No Static Blues Band, and they play throughout the Chicagoland area; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary Lane raised a family of seven children in Chicago, three of whom are now singers; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, honor Mary Lane and praise her artistic contribution to the cultural viability of Cook County.