



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-4234, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING LGBTQ HISTORY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the month of June is recognized as LGBTQ Pride Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the LGBTQ community across the United States remembers and honors the legacy of LGBTQ people at The Stonewall Riots on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, there is also a rich and important LGBTQ history in Cook County that must be remembered; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives located in Chicago is a vital partner in preserving and displaying the history and artifacts of local LGBTQ history; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracy Baim, long time publisher of Windy City Times and other LGBTQ publications, has been essential in documenting the lives, photographs, and news of the LGBTQ community for decades including in her book, Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community; and

**WHEREAS**, Victor Salvo created The Legacy Project and The Legacy Walk, an outdoor history exhibit in the Boystown neighborhood of Chicago to commemorate the lives and work of prominent LGBTQ people whose contributions or identities were overlooked by most historic texts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Society of Human Rights, the first recognized gay rights organization in the United States, was founded in 1924 by Henry Gerber in Chicago, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the Stonewall Riots in New York, similar raids by law enforcement including Cook County Sheriff Richard Ogilvie, were conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the most prominent examples was a raid of a well-known LGBTQ establishment called Fun Lounge, located in suburban Cook County, in which 109 patrons were arrested on April 25, 1964; and

**WHEREAS**, those arrested were paraded in front of newspaper photographers. The names and occupations of those arrested were printed on the front page of local newspaper even though charges of over 90 people were dropped because of insufficient evidence of any kind; and

**WHEREAS**, the controversial printing of names and occupations led to the firing of many of those that were in teaching and school administrative roles; and

**WHEREAS**, this raid was a galvanizing moment for LGBTQ people in Cook County to organize politically against those fighting for their right to live openly; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1968, the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations hosted a conference in Chicago where they drafted the "Homosexual Bill of Rights", which included basic tenants of LGBTQ people being able to live their lives without fear of harassment or retribution; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Flint became the first openly LGBTQ person to run for the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1993 the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed an amendment to the Human Rights Ordinance that included sexual orientation as a group protected from discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center was founded by Cook County Health and Rush University Medical Center in 1998 and has pioneered treatment and care for HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, there are countless other examples of battles fought by the LGBTQ community in Cook County and paths paved by LGBTQ people willing to stand up for their community; and

**WHEREAS**, all of this history has shaped the LGBTQ community in Cook County and led to advancements of living lives openly and authentically; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor the LGBTQ community during Pride Month and remember the history of the LGBTQ community in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we honor the great contributions that LGBTQ people have done across Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, Tracy Baim, Victor Salvo and Jim Flint.