



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 21-1509, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE OF DORI WILSON**

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson was born in Winona, Mississippi, she came to Chicago when she was 7, and went on to graduate from Hyde Park High School and attend Roosevelt University; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson lived on Chicago's Northshore and was a Cook County resident who selflessly made extraordinary contributions to improve the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson worked at various advertising firms while also maintaining a part-time modeling career, which would ultimately see her become the first Black runway model in the city, working for Marshall Field's and Carson Pirie Scott; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson continued her career in advertising, also working to help cast and produce various shows while still modeling and generating a coveted list of contacts. In 1981 she used those contacts to start her own firm, Dori Wilson Public Relations, solidifying her as a successful and barrier-breaking entrepreneur; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson promoted the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Academy for the Arts. She handled publicity for famed hairstylist Vidal Sassoon. Other clients included Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls, the DuSable Museum of African American History, Marshall Field's and various government agencies. Her work was instrumental in establishing the Chicago International Film Festival. And in addition, she also worked with Oprah Winfrey on the Chicago premiere of the "Color Purple" as well as the David Schwimmer-directed production of Lookingglass Theater; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson's connections meant she always had good stories to tell. Dori also served on the boards of the Harris Theater, the Chicago Urban League and Brookfield Zoo; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson was an authentic trailblazer, pioneer and entrepreneur and a true advocate for her beloved City of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson passed away on February 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Dori Wilson is survived by her brother Williams Thomas Wilson, Sr. and her nephew Travis; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of Dori Wilson and honor the life and memory of this outstanding Cook County resident.