



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY 2023 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, a volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities, repaired its first home in suburban Cook County in 1992, and has since rehabilitated nearly 1,900 homes, as well as assisted in the development of essential community centers and gardens; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is part of a national nonprofit program, which sponsors National Rebuilding Day across the country on the last Saturday in April; and

WHEREAS, every year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago selects two neighborhoods in Cook County in which to provide home repair for elderly, disabled, or low income individuals; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 volunteers annually, including Cook County employees, donate their time and talents to plan and complete hundreds of free home repairs for residents in Cook County through Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's volunteer teams; and

WHEREAS, repairs typically focus on keeping homeowners "warm, safe and dry" and also improve access for low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, steps were taken to ensure the effects of COVID-19 were mitigated and minimized and that Cook County residents remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 National Rebuilding Day activities, avoiding in-home repairs that could put anyone at risk; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago sought new and meaningful ways to continue to provide services and remain true to their mission; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago quickly adapted to this new reality and provided 400 cloth facemasks, 1,580 ounces of hand sanitizer, delivered 9,000 lbs of groceries, conducted 56 furnace and boiler tune-ups, built 200 learn-at-home student desks, created 100 address placards to aid first responders in identifying homes, and fabricated 40 COVID-safe partitions for local shelters; and

WHEREAS, last year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago was cautious but optimistic. The County contributed \$65,000 through its Community Development Block Grant program supporting two renovations and repaired homes in south suburban Chicago Heights. As such, services to homeowners continued in a manner that keeps volunteers and homeowners safe. This year, Rebuilding Together plans another National Rebuilding Day on April 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, This year, Rebuilding Together services will be rendered for homes in Blue Island; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an example of Cook County and other local governments working in partnership with private corporations to assist residents and communities in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize and express Cook County's sincere gratitude to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago and its participating companies, as we work together to restore homes to a warm, safe, and dry condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that various departments, including but not limited to the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and the Bureau of Asset Management continue to work annually with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago to determine project scope for the Cook County sponsored projects and coordinate volunteers annually for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and Bureau of Asset Management be recognized for their ongoing efforts in determining Cook County's annual project scope and determining repairs that will be conducted by Cook County employee volunteers for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago in acknowledgment of its past accomplishments and to a successful upcoming year.