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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARING SEPTEMBER NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH

WHEREAS, service animals are dogs of any breed and size trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability; and

WHEREAS, service dogs play a vital role in the lives of people with sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, and mental disabilities, assisting them in performing day-to-day tasks; and

WHEREAS, some service dogs are specially trained for people with diabetes, epilepsy, or PTSD; and

WHEREAS, during the last decade the use of services dogs has rapidly expanded; and

WHEREAS, 27% of adults in the United States, over 61 million individuals, live with a disability; and

WHEREAS, there are only about 500,000 service dogs in the United States leading to waitlist of up to 1 - 5 years; and

WHEREAS, studies show that individuals with a service dog exhibit better psychosocial health that can bolster social, emotional, and work/school functioning; and

WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month aims to educate the community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them; and

WHEREAS, residents are encouraged to celebrate service dogs and be respectful of the rights afforded to the adults, children, and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is committed to being an inclusive community in which all citizens, and their service dogs, are embraced; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby celebrate the extraordinary helping paws of service dogs in Cook County and throughout the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby proclaims September as, "National Service Dog Month" in Cook County, Illinois.