



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 10:00 AM

CONSENT CALENDAR

Pursuant to Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Post Board Action Agenda and Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Clerk of the Board.

[21-0538](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ELIZABETH (“LIZ”) MILLAN**

WHEREAS, Ms. Elizabeth (“Liz”) Millan will be retiring from her position as the Director of the Landscape Maintenance department - the Forest Preserves of Cook County’s largest department - on December 31, 2021. Ms. Millan served the Forest Preserves and this department for seven years, first as Deputy Director for four years and then as Director for three years. She is the first female director of this department and simultaneously served as Interim Director of the Facilities and Fleet department for a time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan provided a combined forty-one years of public service in the Parks and Recreation field to the Chicago Park District and Forest Preserves of Cook County with too many accomplishments over her tenure to capture all of these in this document but include developing and implementing a Landscape Maintenance Field Operations and Equipment Training Manual which includes mandatory training on biodiversity, first aid/CPR, heat stress safety, highway mowing, defensive driving, and equipment maintenance; developing a successful internal commercial driver’s license training program for Landscape Maintenance staff instructed by certified staff members; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan expanded Landscape Maintenance operations by creating the Beautification Crew that helps reduce the carbon footprint at the aquatic centers and several maintenance divisions with in-house native plant designs, and the Pavement Preservation Crew to reduce capital improvement expenses; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan chaired the Green Sustainability Committee’s Zero Waste Cross-Departmental Working Group in 2018 which goals were to increase waste diversion rates, increase recycling and composting initiatives, and overall support material re-use strategies, all designed to help the Forest Preserves reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan represented the Forest Preserves during the Illinois Association of Park Districts Parks Day at the Capitol Exhibit Fair in 2017 and 2018, represented the Forest Preserves at a number of meetings with the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts, represented the Forest Preserves in

numerous external recycling partner group meetings, including the Chicago Sustainability Task Force, and assisted in promoting the Forest Preserves Emmy Award-winning documentary film, *Chicago's True Nature: The Forest Preserves of Cook County*, to various community groups around Chicagoland; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan was the winner of the Forest Preserves' "Above and Beyond" Green Leaf Award in 2017 and the winner of two Green Leaf Awards in 2018 for the "Most Sustainable Department" and the "Most Sustainable Director," and was nominated in 2019 for the Chicago Excellence in Gardening Award for sustainable planting techniques; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, modified operational standards to address public health and safety to protect visitors and employees of the Forest Preserves by optimizing the cleaning and sanitation of facilities, grounds, and trails; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan was the winner of the Puerto Rican Parade Committee of Chicago award in recognition of her outstanding dedication and service to the Puerto Rican community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Millan has been a Deacon for New Life Covenant Church and a dedicated missionary since 2011, and a teacher for the Chicago Dream Center which mission since 2014 is to rescue women by empowering them to overcome life challenges; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, Ms. Millan will continue to dedicate herself to her missionary work establishing nutritional centers in developing countries and working with displaced women; and

WHEREAS, the true legacy of Elizabeth Millan lives in the impact she had on her staff by always being consistent, fair, open, and transparent, and her passion for inspiring and motivating all those that sought comfort in her kind-hearted approach; and in her professionalism displayed through her high standards of ethics, dedication, and performance as a Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, along with members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, General Superintendent Arnold L. Randall, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby congratulate Ms. Elizabeth Millan on a long career in public service and thank her for the many contributions she bestowed to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be tendered to her and her family in recognition of her career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County, service to residents and visitors, and her passion for public service.

[21-0539](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ALTHERMAN (“A.J.”) JACKSON

WHEREAS, Mr. Altherman Jackson will be retiring on December 31, 2021 from the Forest Preserves of Cook County after serving eight years as Regional Superintendent of the South and Southeast region and then two years as Deputy Director of the Landscape Maintenance Department; and

WHEREAS, prior to his eight years with the Forest Preserves, he spent thirty-three years in public service with the Chicago Park District as a Park Supervisor and Area Manager, and an additional ten years in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson attended North Park College and received certifications in Computer Science, Recreation and Leadership, Management and Supervision, and Coaching and Counseling; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career at the Chicago Park District, Mr. Jackson was known for his ability to develop community partnerships, drive innovative projects, and develop quality recreational programs and services that enhanced local communities. Mr. Jackson managed large and historic parks such as Washington Park, Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance, and the South Shore Cultural Center and was responsible for twenty recreation centers, eight pools, one ice skating rink, two golf courses, four special use facilities, thirty unstaffed playgrounds, three hundred employees, and numerous special events. Mr. Jackson coordinated the Adventure Recreation Team Building Program on Bynum Island located in Washington Park, spearheaded the renovations at the Sherwood Park Field House, facilitated the planning and opening of the Midway Plaisance Ice Rink, the Nichols Park Field House, and the Harris Park Field House, and also assisted with coordinating the Midweek at the Midway Movie/Concert Series; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career at the Forest Preserves of Cook County as a Regional Superintendent, Mr. Jackson managed the daily operations of the historic Dan Ryan Woods in the Calumet Division and the Thorn Creek Division with over sixty groves, six trails, six fishing lakes, one aquatic center, three sledding hills, two snowmobile fields, two model airplane fields, one special event pavilion, one visitors’ center, and the Dan Ryan Woods Nature Play Area. Under his leadership, the Calumet Division of the Forest Preserves of Cook County’s Landscape Maintenance department received the “Best Division Award” three years in a row for its pristine groves and highly scored patron surveys, and the “All Time Safety Award” two years in a row for having the least amount of vehicle and equipment incidents at the Thorn Creek Division; and

WHEREAS, the true legacy of A.J. Jackson lives in his transparency, integrity, leadership abilities, and

dedication to the mission and values of the organizations he serves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, along with the members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, General Superintendent Arnold L. Randall, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby congratulate A.J. Jackson on a long career in public service and thank him for his many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be tendered to him and his family in recognition of his career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County, service to residents and visitors, and his passion for public service.