



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 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.

[22-0009](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY FOR RECEIVING A CHICAGO WILDERNESS EXCELLENCE IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AWARD AND A CHICAGO WILDERNESS GEORGE B. RABB FORCE OF NATURE AWARD**

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2021, the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve was honored with a Platinum Accreditation, the highest accreditation, from the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program and the Forest Preserves' Greater Maywood Paddling Program was honored with a Chicago Wilderness George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award during a ceremony held at the Forest Preserves' Thatcher Woods Pavilion in River Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program recognizes high-quality natural areas in the Chicago region and highlights projects that set an example of best practices in natural resource management and ecological restoration; and

WHEREAS, Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve is a 380-acre state-dedicated nature preserve in Willow Springs and is located within the 14,000-acre Palos/Sag Valley Forest Preserve system that comprises the largest contiguous tract of forest preserve habitat; and

WHEREAS, Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve is distinguished by its peat bog, remnant woodland, oak savanna, and natural prairie communities and it contains glacial kettlehole depressions that support vernal ponds, marsh, and sedge meadow habitats; and

WHEREAS, restoration at Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve began in the 1990s, led by volunteer stewards, and was accelerated in 2015 when the Forest Preserves secured funding to initiate a major restoration project, which included removal of invasive brush, selective tree thinning, and stream restoration along Crooked Creek which flows through the nature preserve; and

WHEREAS, today Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve is a thriving, high quality natural area thanks to ecological restoration efforts of volunteers and staff; and

WHEREAS, the George B. Rabb Force of Nature Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose conservation, restoration, advocacy or educational activities in the region are inspirational examples for others; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Maywood Paddling Program is a unique community paddling initiative that provides an economical, supportive and user-friendly way for organized groups to connect to nature through kayaking; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Maywood Paddling Program is the only kayak gear lending and training program in the country that partners with community groups and trains them to lead their own kayaking trips and provides participants with all the supplies needed to lead organized group paddling excursions; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Maywood Paddling Program is an excellent example of collaboration, with the Forest Preserves working together with partners to develop the infrastructure and programming necessary to make paddling an accessible, approachable and safe activity; and

WHEREAS, to date, 1,434 people have participated in the program, 30% of which are youth under 18 years, and the program has trained 46 community leaders representing 17 organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Maywood Paddling Program helps community members connect with nature through outdoor recreation, advances the Next Century Conservation Plan and its goal to ensure that everyone in Cook County feels welcome in the preserves, and is a multi-award winning model for community engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the winners of both the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Award and George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the awardees as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

[22-0017](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING OFFICER JORGE TAPIA, OFFICER BRYANT DICKEY, OFFICER HIRAL NIEVES, AND SERGEANT ANDREW CHOMOR OF THE FOREST PRESERVES LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT FOR SERVICE TO THE FOREST PRESERVES AND THE PEOPLE OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS the sworn officers of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Department of Law Enforcement protect the Forest Preserves and the people who visit the preserves, and these officers are committed to serving with honor and integrity and to treating every person with respect, dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2021, the Mower County Sheriff's Office in Minnesota requested assistance with locating a subject wanted on a warrant after the Mower County Sheriff's Office had received a call from a child who reported that the wanted subject threatened to kill the child's mother and was headed to Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Sheriff's Office requested that the Forest Preserves' police conduct a search for the subject's vehicle near Busse Woods; and then, while searching, the Forest Preserves police were notified that the search was being re-directed to another jurisdiction, but the officers decided to continue searching the site out of an abundance of caution; and

WHEREAS, Forest Preserves Officers Tapia, Dickey, and Nieves and Sergeant Chomor located the subject's vehicle at Ned Brown Forest Preserve and safely took the subject into custody without further incident; and

WHEREAS, the extra caution and effort by the officers and sergeant may have prevented a future act of domestic violence and safeguarded the mother who had been threatened.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor and thank Officer Jorge Tapia, Officer Bryant Dickey, Officer Hiral Nieves, and Sergeant Andrew Chomor for their service and commitment to public safety.

[22-0018](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING OFFICER JULIO IRIZARRY, OFFICER MERCEDES MARTINEZ, AND SHERIFF'S POLICE SERGEANT CHRIS PLYON FOR SERVICE TO THE FOREST PRESERVES AND PEOPLE OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS the officers of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Department of Law Enforcement protect the Forest Preserves and people who visit the Forest Preserves and are sworn officers committed to serving with honor and integrity, and to treating every person with respect, dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2021, Forest Preserves Police Officers Julio Irizarry and Mercedes Martinez responded to assist Cook County Sheriff's Police units searching for a woman who was in crisis based on statements made to a colleague; and

WHEREAS, Officers Irizarry and Martinez searched Bunker Hill Forest Preserve where the woman was believed to be but was not found, and later when the woman's vehicle was found at a nearby hotel, they responded to the location and, in conjunction with Cook County Sheriff's Police Sergeant Chris Plybon, confirmed the woman had checked into the hotel; and

WHEREAS, upon entering the woman's hotel room, the Officers and Sergeant discovered her unconscious and then immediately began to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until she began to breathe on her own and paramedics arrived and transported her to a hospital; and

WHEREAS, the earlier CPR is initiated, the greater the chances of survival, and the swift actions of Officer Irizarry, Officer Martinez, and Sergeant Plybon likely saved the woman's life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor and thank Forest Preserves of Cook County Officer Julio Irizarry, Officer Mercedes Martinez, and Cook County Sheriff's Police Sergeant Chris Plybon for their service, dedication, and commitment to public safety.