



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, September 21, 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.

[21-0404](#)

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

HONORING MISERICORDIA, CLEARBROOK, AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY FOR RECEIVING AWARDS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION OFFICIALS: THE REMOVING BARRIERS AWARD FOR ALL THREE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD FOR THE FOREST PRESERVES

WHEREAS, in May 2021 the Forest Preserves of Cook County (“Forest Preserves”) received two awards from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials’ annual awards program which recognizes and honors excellence in county, regional and special district level parks and recreation throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves’ Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (“REDI”) Committee received the Social Justice Award, which honors a regional system that has served as a change agent and made a tangible impact by prioritizing a culture of equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the work of the REDI Committee was recognized as a workplace initiative that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to social justice through leadership and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, since its formation in 2018, the REDI Committee has been guided by Professor Kathleen Yang Clayton and Adam Slade at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the REDI Committee focuses on analyzing and understanding internal agency challenges and barriers in order to implement solutions based on racial equity, and works to educate employees on how to practice racial equity in the workplace and restructure internal processes to reflect the Forest Preserves’ values of equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves’ Wildlife Connections Ambassadors program received the Removing

Barriers Award which recognizes a unique program or facility that enables and encourages greater participation in parks and recreation by persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, launched in 2019, Wildlife Connections Ambassadors is a partner-based work experience program with Misericordia, Heart of Mercy, Clearbrook and the Forest Preserves' River Trail Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, the program was created with help from the Chicago Zoological Society to develop opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities to deliver nature programming to school groups and visitors, bridging the gap between science and social-emotional learning standards, with participants taught how to engage with visitors and school groups; and

WHEREAS, the program has created an inclusive, supportive and nurturing community, placing persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in positions of leadership; encourages independence and confidence for those participants; and allows for positive interactions with visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the Forest Preserves' staff and program partners for their work on both the REDI Committee and Wildlife Connections Ambassadors, and for being recognized by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials.

[21-0405](#)

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

HONORING DR. STUART D. STRAHL ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to congratulate Dr. Stuart D. Strahl on his retirement as President and CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society after 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strahl has served as the Chicago Zoological Society's President and CEO since 2003, guiding the Society in its mission to inspire conservation leadership by engaging people and communities with wildlife and nature; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strahl received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Bates College, his Ph.D. in

Biology from the State University of New York at Albany, and a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Dominican University; he also has considerable background in higher education instruction, having served as adjunct faculty at the University of Florida, State University of New York and Washington College, among others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strahl is a well-respected author and distinguished lecturer, the principal author of numerous scientific and popular publications, and has served for over 10 years as the founding Chair of the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on the Avian Family Cracidae; and

WHEREAS, a career conservationist with 35 years' experience in applied science, restoration ecology, public policy, and not-for-profit management, Dr. Strahl is experienced in bringing together diverse interests around conservation causes; Dr. Strahl began his career as a field biologist and later was founding Director of Latin American Programs for the Wildlife Conservation Society, where his lasting partnerships in the U.S. and Latin America resulted in preservation of over 30 million acres of wildlife habitat and over \$18 billion in conservation funding; and prior to arriving at the Chicago Zoological Society, as founding President/CEO of Audubon of Florida, Dr. Strahl led the National Audubon Society into prominence as the acknowledged private-sector leader in the largest ecological restoration initiative in history, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strahl has served on numerous boards and appointed commissions; including, among others, as a member of the boards of directors of the Society for Conservation Biology, Vital Ground Foundation, and Pickering Creek Audubon Center of the Chesapeake Audubon Society; an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union; and a Professional Member of the Boone and Crockett Club; and

WHEREAS, as President and CEO, Dr. Strahl led the creation of the Chicago Zoological Society's new Centers of Excellence - the Center for the Science of Animal Care & Welfare, enhancing high-level animal care in zoos by applying a broad range of sciences to evaluate and improve animal well-being; and the Center for Conservation Leadership, which serves as a nexus for coordinating fieldwork, zoo-based education, and outreach to change the world by inspiring and engaging as many conservation leaders as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Zoological Society is world-renowned as a leader in animal welfare and veterinary care, and produces award-winning conservation programs for people of all abilities; under Dr. Strahl's direction, the Society has developed new and innovative exhibits as well as enduring partnerships that provide service to urban communities of color, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and other populations; and

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 100-year anniversary of the creation of the Chicago Zoological Society, the non-profit organization that operates Brookfield Zoo; and, during his time as CEO, Dr. Strahl strengthened this enduring public-private partnership by helping to shape and advance a common recreational, educational and conservation mission; serving on the Next Century Conservation Plan Commission and Steering Committee, proposing bold actions to make the region a national leader in urban conservation;

and

WHEREAS, in an effort to connect communities across the region with nature and wildlife, Dr. Strahl encouraged the distribution of millions of free zoo admission passes in under-resourced communities, and fostered the creation of an Animal Ambassador program, which brings the zoo's animals outside the park to meet with community members who would not otherwise be able to visit the zoo; and

WHEREAS, as a passionate advocate for veterans and their families, Dr. Strahl developed strong partnerships with local VA Hospitals and veteran groups, including Wounded Warrior Project which holds an annual Soldier Ride at Brookfield Zoo; under Dr. Strahl's direction, to honor their service, the admissions fee to the zoo became free for all active, reservist, and retired members of the military; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Strahl's tenure, Brookfield Zoo welcomed its 150,000,000th guest, and was the most popular paid cultural attraction in the Midwest; it also became the first zoo in the world to receive Humane Certified designation from American Humane for its exemplary animal care and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Brookfield Zoo's campus grew and modernized under Dr. Strahl, fulfilling aspects of a strategic plan focused on animal welfare and engagement of diverse communities; historical exhibits were transformed into Great Bear Wilderness and Regenstein Wolf Woods, showcasing endangered species of North America; the Children's Zoo became Hamill Family Wild Encounters, highlighting opportunities to get up close and personal with nature; the original Reptile House was transformed into the Mary Ann MacLean Conservation Leadership Center, housing all of the zoo's educational outreach programs; and the Pavilions and Hamill Family Nature Plaza were newly constructed to provide spaces for guests to relax during their trip to the zoo; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strahl reinforced the Chicago Zoological Society's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access by implementing comprehensive programs for audience diversity, vendor diversity, and workforce and workplace diversity and inclusion, to make Brookfield Zoo an even more welcoming destination for all visitors and to connect people of all backgrounds with conservation through cutting-edge, inclusive programs and experiences; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Strahl's leadership, the Chicago Zoological Society received over 60 awards from local, national and international organizations for its educational and conservation programs, inclusive practices, and business acumen; including the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal for Museum Service, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Angela Petersen Excellence in Diversity Award and Community Engagement Award for the King Conservation Leadership Academy, the Illinois Association of Museums' Large Institution of the Year award, the Illinois Department of Human Services' Distinguished Service Award for employment of individuals with disabilities, and the Fuller Park Neighborhood Development Corporation's Community Partner of the Year award, among many others; and

WHEREAS, as an avid outdoorsman, Dr. Strahl and his family enjoy exploring remote natural areas, and look forward to spending more time in the wilderness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulate Dr. Stuart Strahl for his dedication, service, and enormous contribution as President and CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society, and wish him well in all of his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Dr. Stuart Strahl as a token of appreciation for his immense work for the Chicago Zoological Society and with the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

[21-0406](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGREN, 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

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners is pleased to commemorate the centennial of the Chicago Zoological Society, the non-profit organization that operates Brookfield Zoo on land owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, philanthropist Edith Rockefeller McCormick donated 83 acres of land to the Forest Preserves of Cook County under the stipulation that the land be used to create a modern zoological park; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves then convened a “Committee on Zoological Gardens,” which spent 3 years studying the exhibits, governance structure, funding methods, maintenance costs and administration structure in zoological gardens across the county; and

WHEREAS, after much study of similar arrangements adopted by large zoological organizations, the Committee recommended the creation of the Chicago Zoological Society, formed of representative citizens of Cook County, to plan, build and operate the zoo; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Zoological Society was officially chartered on February 7, 1921, and its members included prominent civic and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, Brookfield Zoo subsequently opened to the public in 1934, and has evolved into a hub of scientific research, conservation education, and inspiration for generations of conservation leaders; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, the Chicago Zoological Society has been a beacon of innovation and home to many firsts in the United States, including the first zoo to exhibit giant pandas, and the first to welcome the successful births of a black rhinoceros, okapi and southern hairy-nosed wombat; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Zoological Society is also celebrating 100 years of successful partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County; thanks to this lasting cooperation, the Society and the Forest Preserves will continue to inspire conservation leadership and provide for the education and recreation of the public now and in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulate the Chicago Zoological Society on its centennial and its long and successful partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Chicago Zoological Society in recognition of its 100 years as a global leader in conservation education, wildlife research and animal welfare.

[21-0415](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGREN, 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

RECOGNIZING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY RECEIPT OF THE URBAN NIGHT SKY PLACE DESIGNATION OF ITS PALOS PRESERVE REGION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, in August of 2021, the Forest Preserves' Palos Preserves region, consisting of approximately 6,600 acres colloquially referred to as Mt. Forest Island, was officially certified an Urban Night Sky Place by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA); and

WHEREAS, designation of this region as an Urban Night Sky Place is only the third such designation to have been made by IDA to date, and is the largest designated Urban Night Sky Place in the world; and

WHEREAS, an IDA Urban Night Sky Place is a municipal park, open space, observing site, or other similar property near or surrounded by a large urban place, whose planning and design actively promote an authentic nighttime experience in the midst of significant artificial light; and

WHEREAS, this designation was made possible with the partnership of the Adler Planetarium which

spent over 200 hours partnering with the Forest Preserves: (1) to strategically help reduce the Forest Preserves' nighttime light pollution; (2) to educate staff and the public about the Dark Skies; and (3) to assist the Forest Preserves in applying for the International Dark Sky Association's Urban Night Sky Designation; and

WHEREAS, this Urban Night Sky Place designation supports the Forest Preserves' Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Plan's call to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and to protect its native ecosystems and wildlife as a changing climate continues to impact the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulate the Adler Planetarium and the Forest Preserves' Green Sustainability Committee for helping the Forest Preserves' Palos Preserve region to receive the Urban Night Sky Place designation by the International Dark Sky Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the President of the Adler Planetarium, the Senior Manager of the Far Horizons Program of the Adler Planetarium, and the leaders of the Forest Preserves' Green Sustainability Committee, as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

[21-0416](#)

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

HONORING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH ADLER PLANETARIUM, A WORLD-RENOWNED PLANETARIUM, RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION AND CHICAGOLAND DESTINATION

WHEREAS, the partnership between the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") and the Adler Planetarium reflects a shared commitment to protect our local ecosystems, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to connect people to nature and the remarkable universe we all share; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, the Adler Planetarium has spent over 200 hours partnering with the Forest Preserves: (1) to reduce the Forest Preserves' nighttime light pollution; (2) to educate staff and the public about the importance of dark skies; and (3) to assist the Forest Preserves in its pursuit of the International Dark Sky Association's Urban Night Sky Designation for one of its preserves; and

WHEREAS, nighttime light pollution in Cook County renders invisible thousands of twinkling stars, contributes to global warming, negatively impacts human health and wildlife, and contributes to birds

becoming disoriented during migrations and colliding with buildings, making Chicago one of the most dangerous place in the United States for birds according to a 2019 study from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology; and

WHEREAS, the Adler Planetarium helped the Forest Preserves perform lighting and window upgrades throughout its facilities and parking lots, trained Forest Preserve staff on light monitoring protocols, and collected night light readings across the Forest Preserves in an effort to reduce light pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Adler Planetarium has helped the Forest Preserves: (1) grow its community science and outreach efforts by exploring the effects of light pollution on breeding populations of frogs and toads with the Preserves' "Calling Frog Survey" program; and (2) brought Adler's "Far Horizon Teen Program" into the Forest Preserves for programming and educational sessions; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2021 the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) officially certified the Forest Preserves' Palos Preserves region, approximately 6,600 acres colloquially referred to as Mt. Forest Island, as an Urban Night Sky Place; a designation awarded to a municipal park, open space, observing site, or other similar property near or surrounded by a large urban place, whose planning and design actively promote an authentic nighttime experience in the midst of significant artificial light; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves' Palos Preserves region is the largest designated Urban Night Sky Place in the world and is only the third such designation made by the IDA; and

WHEREAS, the IDA Urban Night Sky Place designation of the Forest Preserves' Palos Preserves region would not have been possible without the Adler Planetarium's generous, supportive and enthusiastic collaboration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank the Adler Planetarium, for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves and for helping the Forest Preserves Palos Preserve region receiving the Urban Night Sky Place designation by the International Dark Sky Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the President of the Adler Planetarium and the Senior Manager of the Far Horizons Program at the Adler Planetarium, as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

[21-0427](#)

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALBERT PRITCHETT, JR.

WHEREAS, Albert (Al) Pritchett Jr., a devoted family man and accomplished pioneer in African-American governmental leadership in numerous governments in Cook County, has been taken from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Al Pritchett was born in Crawfordsville, Arkansas on September 18, 1932, the oldest of four children, to Albert Sr. and Rebecca Pritchett. In 1936 the family moved to Chicago, settling on 38th and Indiana Avenue. Albert began his education at Wendell Phillips Elementary School and continued at Wendell Phillips High School where he excelled in the classroom and in sports, lettering in track and field and football; and

WHEREAS, after graduating High School in 1950, Al matriculated at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he continued to exude academic excellence and athletic prowess, graduating in June of 1955. Al Pritchett was drafted into the US Navy later that year and, while home on leave, he married the love of his life, Gloria Fay Hunter, on June 1, 1957. Their union would last 64 years and would see the birth of their daughters Jeanette Marie and Valerie Ann; and

WHEREAS, Al possessed a deep love and affection for family, which was displayed endlessly when imparting wisdom and guidance to his grandchildren: Aja Monique Brown, Rebeka Leigh Thomas, Komae Julian Brown, Vivian Marie Thomas, Kaela Simone Brown, and Elan Michele Brown, (In-Law) Jonathan A. Thomas, Jillian A. Thomas & Jason A. Thomas, and his great-grandchildren: Kamyla Marie-Julianne Brown, Braylen Perez Daniels, Kamora Leanne Brown, Bryson Perez Daniels, and Komae Julian Brown Jr., and

WHEREAS, Al Pritchett would begin a more than 40-year career of public service in 1958 with the Chicago Park District; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1966 under Mayor Richard J. Daley, Albert Pritchett helped to rebuild and revitalize many neighborhoods throughout the City of Chicago during his work as Deputy Director for the Near South Area with the Chicago Committee on Urban Opportunity (CCUO). In 1972, Al Pritchett began a positive working relationship between the City of Chicago and local social service agencies when

he became the Director of Delegate Agency Services for the City of Chicago's Model Cities Program -- a forerunner of the current City of Chicago Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Al Pritchett became the Acting Director of the newly-merged Model Cities/CCUO office, where he was responsible for the overall direction and administration of Chicago's comprehensive human service agency which had relationships with 300 delegate agencies and over 1000 program components; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Chicago Mayor Michael Bilandic appointed Al Pritchett to the position of Special Assistant to the Mayor, where he coordinated the human service activities of several departments on behalf of the Mayor; and in 1979, he was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of the City of Chicago Department of Public Safety, where he helped City departments prepare swift and effective responses to emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Al Pritchett would begin his service to the County of Cook in the office of Cook County Assessor Thomas C. Hynes as Chief Administrative Officer for the Assessor's Office, providing leadership to the employees of the office and assistance to taxpayers with concerns regarding their properties; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Cook County Board President Richard J. Phelan would appoint Al Pritchett as Cook County Chief Administrative Officer of Cook County, the second person to hold that position, and the first African American to be appointed to this position in the County's history; and

WHEREAS, Albert Pritchett's tenure as Chief Administrative Officer would continue through the administration of President John H. Stroger, Jr., where he would play a key role in shaping policy on economic development, human service programs and veterans programs. He led efforts to bring 911 emergency telephone services to all of Cook County; coordinated Cook County's hosting of the 1993 National Association of Counties annual convention; strengthened the Chicago Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; and advanced Cook County's adaptation of technology and consolidation of the downtown offices of Cook County Government. Al Pritchett's legacy as Chief Administrative Officer was one of fairness, loyalty, attention to detail, efficiency, a commitment to working together, and a dedication to effective government working on behalf of all residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Pritchett retired from Cook County Government until Cook County Board President John Stroger called upon Mr. Pritchett again in 2003 to serve as Interim Superintendent of the Forest Preserves. In 2006 Cook County Board President Bobbie L. Steele tapped Mr. Pritchett to serve as her Chief of Staff. Later, Mr. Pritchett accepted appointments to a number of boards and commissions that supported everything from the Forest Preserves to the Census count including serving as Chair of the Board of Directors, for the Forest Preserves Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, Al Pritchett could enjoy time with the loves of his life-his family and the world of sports. There was time to travel to various parts of the world, to spend time with grandchildren and

great grandchildren and time to watch and discuss sports. He regularly attended world championship track and field meets with his wife Gloria and their friends; no distance was too far to travel to see a good meet. He was also an avid supporter of Chicago's sports teams, holding season tickets at one time or another to the Bears, Bulls and White Sox; and

WHEREAS, at every level of government, from children and young people whom he mentored at the Park District to families and whole neighborhoods who sought the help of the Model Cities/CCUO Community Centers, to the staff persons he hired, Mr. Pritchett taught leadership skills and emphasized the importance of loyalty, honesty and dedication to getting the job done. Mr. Pritchett's professional legacy is seen in the future success of those individuals who worked for him. Two of his personal staff as Chief Administrative Officer would go on to also become Chief Administrative Officer and another would become Secretary to the Cook County Board; and

WHEREAS, those who worked for him did so not in fear of him, but in fear of disappointing him; they would live by the Elbert Hubbard quote which was on the walls of every office he ever occupied:

“If you work for a man, in Heaven’s name work for him! If he pays you wages that supply your bread and butter, work for him, stand by him, and stand by the institution he represents. If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness. If you must vilify, condemn and eternally disparage - Resign your position”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners honor the life of love and work led by Albert Pritchett, Jr; and that the Board thanks Gloria Fay Pritchett and her entire family for sharing the time of their husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather with Cook County Government-a place he made better for all of us.