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**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, July 26, 2021 9:29:15 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 26, 2021 9:30:34 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:19  
**IP Address:** 73.8.71.153

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**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Gloria Orozco  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60643

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**Q2**

**FPD Finance Committee Meeting 7/27/2021 930a**

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

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**Q3**

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

21-0346

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**Q4**

**REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)**

What do you want to do?

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**Q5**

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Will email.

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**Q6**

**Submitting written testimony only**

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

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**Q7**

**Respondent skipped this question**

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

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Dear commissioners and president Toni Preckwinkle,

To me, the forest preserves offer more than a green space to go to for stress relief or to take a walk. They offer the opportunity for exploration and wonder. I have been able to take my 4 four year old more often during this pandemic. Her face lights up as she examines a flower up close, or as she chases after a dragonfly to “catch it,” she never does. She has not had the opportunity to socialize with other kids, this has been the safest way for her to be able to continue learning and exploring the world around her. If it's been difficult for us as adults, I can't begin to imagine how hard it must be for her curious and adventurous spirit.

During this pandemic, it has been more vital than ever to have natural spaces such as the forest preserves. It becomes more and more evident that having these forest preserves protected is a human right. They offered free, and accessible for most, mental and emotional help. You hear the stories as you're out volunteering about how the forest preserves were the place to escape the heavy load we've all been carrying this past year and a half. From people discovering their love for birding, to people wanting to safely socialize with other humans as we were isolated for so long. I hope we never go through what we've been through, but if we do, we need these spaces to be around. We need them to be healthy and well taken care of. Not only for our personal wellbeing, but for the flora and fauna who call the forest preserves their home.

Please vote in support of the Referendum. Thank you.