



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

**Cook County Building, Board Room
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 10:00 AM

CONSENT CALENDAR[19-0403](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), 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, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING MR. THOMAS THOMPSON AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY FOR RECEIVING THE FLEET PROPANE AUTOGAS AWARD**

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2019, Mr. Thomas Thompson received on behalf of the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) the Propane Education Research Council’s (PERC) Fleet Propane Autogas Award; and

WHEREAS, the Fleet Propane Autogas Award honors organizations and individuals who are committed to creating and building healthier environments for operators and communities by using clean, cost-effective, and domestically produced autogas; and

WHEREAS, Propane Autogas was adopted by the Forest Preserves in 2013 to help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a goal within the Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan; and

WHEREAS, through these recognized efforts, Mr. Thompson and the Forest Preserves have converted to date 20 vehicles and 41 pieces of equipment to operate with a propane-based fuel source, reducing our GHG emission output by a 60% average with these units; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas Thompson is the Maintenance Supervisor for the Fleet division of the Facilities and Fleet Department with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, the first and the largest forest preserve system in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson has been working with the Forest Preserves of Cook County since September 23, 1996. He oversees fleet activities, procurement, and the implementation of cost effective green initiative programming, such as incorporating environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient solutions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson is on the Executive Board of the Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition, whose mission is to advance the energy, economic, and environmental security of the U.S. by adopting practices that reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate Thomas Thompson and the Forest Preserves' staff for this recognition and their commitment towards energy and environmental conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Mr. Thompson in recognition of his contribution to the Forest Preserves.

[19-0412](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), KEVIN B. MORRISON, 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, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING JOHN McCABE, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, John McCabe is recognized for 25 years of full time service with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and for being an effective advocate for conservation in the region; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe began his career as a Student Forester for the Forest Preserves while pursuing a degree in Forestry at Michigan Technological University; and

WHEREAS, he served in a variety of roles including Woodsman, Forester, Resource Manager, Safety and Training Coordinator, Deputy Director, and currently as the Director of Resource Management; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Department of Resource Management has revitalized land management programs, initiated strategic restoration at an unprecedented scale in Forest Preserve history, and attained other significant accomplishments including enacting new tree protection and mitigation policies, expanding the prescribed fire program, and implementing the Conservation Corps job training programs for over 2,000 youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, he coordinated many projects and created networks with volunteers, municipalities, partner organizations, contractors and interns to ensure responsible and effective habitat management; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe serves as the co-chair of the Next Century Conservation Plan's Nature Committee and was a key proponent for the creation of the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan, which has led to the creation of the Forest Preserves' first seed sourcing policy, comprehensive descriptions of the Forest Preserves' natural and cultural resources, and prioritized restoration plans for

ensuring effective conservation of those resources into the future; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in over 600 prescribed fires during his tenure, he is a recognized expert in conducting prescribed burns in the urban environment, and he has held leadership positions that have influenced fire management across the State of Illinois, including serving as a director of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council and lead instructor for the Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member training course; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe is responsible for initiating a formal safety and training program, which now offers over 100 environmental education and field training opportunities annually for staff, partners, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to the Forest Preserves is evidenced further through his roles as an Incident Commander, Trail Watch volunteer, and ecological stewardship volunteer; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe is a tireless advocate for nature, and has made it his mission to restore and protect our region's natural areas and the flora and fauna preserved within them, working tirelessly to prioritize safe and accessible trails and recreational opportunities connecting Cook County residents and visitors to nature; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe represents the very best of public service and his leadership will continue to benefit the people, animals, and plants of Cook County for generations to come; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves recognize John McCabe for his steadfast dedication to the Forest Preserves, the milestones he has achieved and those still to come; and

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

[19-0420](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), 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, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHIEF ATTORNEY DENNIS A. WHITE

WHEREAS, Dennis A. White graduated from Saint Ignatius College Preparatory School. In 1987, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, then obtained a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White is a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity dedicated to uplifting people

and communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the appointment of Dennis A. White as the Chief Attorney of the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, he has led the legal department for 12 years and served as a member of Senior Staff managing the day-to-day operations and significantly contributing to the policies and strategic direction of the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the Forest Preserves, Mr. White led the legal efforts to have the Forest Preserves declared in compliance with the *Shakman* decrees exemplifying his and the Forest Preserves' leaders' commitment to barring political patronage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White also successfully defended the Forest Preserves and the taxpayers of Cook County in multiple lawsuits including several involving the acquisition of a 400-acre horse farm in Barrington Hills; and

WHEREAS, Chief Attorney Dennis A. White is known throughout the Forest Preserves for his common-sense legal approach, sound legal advice, and his thoughtful and calm approach to legal matters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White served as the interim head of the Cook County Pension Board for a two-month period in 2018; and

WHEREAS, prior to his tenure at the Forest Preserves, Mr. White owned his own realty firm and was an attorney for General Motors; and

WHEREAS, in his downtime, Mr. White serves as the Board Chair of the South Side YMCA Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White currently is a proud Cook County resident in the Village of Flossmoor with his wife, Tiffany, and his children Ashley and Xavier; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White will continue his public service career as the Executive Director of the \$3.8 billion Chicago Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle, along with 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 extend their thanks to Dennis A. White for his dedication, contribution, leadership, and outstanding service and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Mr. Dennis A.

White in recognition of his significant contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.