



CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

**Meeting of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, County Building
Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 10:00 A.M.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

14-1038

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Celebrating the 30th Annual Forest Preserve District of Cook County's New Year's Day Canoe Paddle

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2015, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County will be conducting its 30th annual New Year's Day Canoe Paddle; and

WHEREAS, each New Year's Day, hundreds of wonderfully crazy people jump into their canoes and kayaks to paddle an intimate reach of the Chicago River, long protected as part of the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Friese began the tradition in 1985 and the tradition continues in his honor; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the annual tradition had its best attendance ever, with over 300 people braving the cold to partake in the festivities; and

WHEREAS, due to extremely cold temperatures, the event was cancelled in 2013 and 2014, meaning this year's paddle is greatly anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the brave paddlers begin at 9:00 am with the last launch at noon; and

WHEREAS, the paddlers begin below the Skokie Lagoons and finish in Linne Woods, passing deer, coyote birds and incredulous humans; and

WHEREAS, countless volunteers brave the cold weather to be Bridge Watchers, help on the Safety Boat and to act as Portage Sherpas and Chaos Preventers; and

WHEREAS, participants are able to view the wonder and beauty of the Cook County Forest Preserve District's flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, the festivities do not end on the river, as participants extend their revelries at Hackney's on Lake Avenue in Glenview; and

WHEREAS, even those who accidentally take a swim, enjoy the day; and

WHEREAS, all who participate universally agree that there is no better way to ring in the New Year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the people of Cook County, does hereby recognize and commend all participants and volunteers in the 30th Annual Forest Preserve District of Cook County New Year's Day Canoe Paddle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the organizers of the New Year's Day Paddle as a token of this Honorable Body's appreciation.