



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 14-1038, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Forest Preserve District of Cook County's New Year's Day Canoe Paddle**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2014 2015, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County will be conducting its 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

