



## Legislation Text

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> 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.