



Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY REVISED REQUIREMENT FOR MODEL POLICE DEPARTMENT PROGRESS REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (“Forest Preserves”) issued a Request for Proposals and retained Hillard Heintze to analyze the Forest Preserves’ Law Enforcement Department (i.e., “Police Department” or “Department”) and recommend best practices to: (a) maintain and strengthen police and community relations, (b) create a work culture that is inclusive and equitable to all people, and (c) support a diverse police force through recruitment, retention and promotion; and

WHEREAS, the final report of the independent analysis of the Department from Hillard Heintze was presented to the Committee on Law Enforcement (the “Committee”) on September 21, 2021, and such report recommended best practices and includes a work plan, timetable, and cost estimates for implementing the best practices, as well as tools to measure progress toward those goals; and

WHEREAS, the report outlined 21 recommendations needed to improve recruitment and retention, update policies and procedures, improve communication across ranks, and enhance police and community relations; and

WHEREAS, one of the key findings is that the Department has a ready, willing and able workforce capable of helping transform the Department into a model police force; however, although those employees interviewed as part of the report were willing to help improve the Department internally, as well as its external relationships, many were concerned that change would not happen once the assessment concluded, and indicated that they have seen previous efforts to assess the Department or effectuate change, that were curtailed or failed to result in meaningful changes; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the report recommendations are adhered to, and that the Forest Preserves continues to recognize the importance of establishing an aggressive timeline to implement said recommendations and to report back to the Board on progress being made towards achieving said recommendations the Board passed Resolution 21-0474, requesting the Forest Preserves to outline and deliver a detailed timeline for all elements needed to achieve the goal of a Model Forest Preserve Police Department as recommended in the *Independent Analysis of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Police Department* and that the General Superintendent and the Chief of the Department update the Board via the Committee on progress being made towards achieving such goal on a quarterly basis beginning with the first quarter of the 2022 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and is satisfied that the Forest Preserves’ leadership and the Department have made significant progress since the passage of 21-0474 and is confident that this progress will continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners does hereby rescind the quarterly progress reporting request and replace it with a request for semi-annual reporting of the same subject matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective immediately, the periodicity of these reports shall be January through June and July through December, each of which is to be introduced to the Board and referred to the Committee within the subsequent quarter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall sunset on December 1, 2026 and that, if so willed by this or future Boards, this reporting requirement may be reinstated, amended or enshrined in future resolutions or ordinances.