

RESOLUTION

Sponsored By

TODD H. STROGER, PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A RESOLUTION REORGANIZING THE COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

WHEREAS, the County of Cook is a home rule unit of government as defined by Article VII, Section 6(a) of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois and as such, may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and the affairs of its citizenry, and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners created the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues by resolution on March 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues has conducted research and developed numerous program, policy and legislative recommendations to address persistent and emerging issues which impact the health, safety and economic well-being of the women and girls of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need in Cook County, Illinois for an official government commission to address the concerns of the County's women and girls and to encourage public and private cooperation in such endeavors; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners does hereby reorganize the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues. The purpose of the Commission is to ensure that all issues affecting women and girls are considered in the formation of public policy and programming in Cook County government. The Commission shall also give voice to the perspectives of women and girls for the benefit of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women's Commission shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members, including a chairperson. Members of the Commission shall be representative of the diverse racial, ethnic, religious, age, sexual orientation and socioeconomic backgrounds of the residents of Cook County. They shall also have experience working toward the improvement of the status of women and girls in society. Seventeen (17) of the members shall be district-based appointments, ensuring representation of all of the County's seventeen districts. Four (4) of the members, including the chairperson, shall be at-large members who have expertise on an issue or issues of key concern to women or a leadership role with an organization working on such issues. Members of the Commission shall:

1. reside within the corporate boundaries of the County;

2. not be an employee of the County or any agency thereof; and
3. serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of Commission duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appointments to the Women's Commission shall be as follows:

1. each member of the County Board of Commissioners shall appoint one member of the Commission to represent his or her district, and
2. the remaining at-large appointments, including the appointment of a chairperson of the Commission, shall be made by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all appointments shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Women's Commission shall serve two year terms. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed or they are reappointed. Vacancies in the membership shall be filled by the original appointing authority, subject to the advice and consent of the County Board, for the balance of the unexpired term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. study, review and report on issues related to the status and welfare of women and girls in the County;
2. review and assess policies, programs and practices of County agencies as they affect women and girls;
3. review proposed legislation and executive action and advise the President and the County Board of the impact of such legislation or action on women and girls;
4. develop recommendations for legislative and executive action on issues affecting women and girls;
5. serve as liaison between the County and other governments, academia, business groups and other private sector organizations working on issues affecting women;

6. partner with private and public organizations to study and develop solutions to problems related to the status of women and girls, and to engage in education and advocacy about those issues;
7. convene public hearings and other events to gather information, recognize the achievements of women and conduct educational programs about issues affecting women and girls;
8. submit an annual report to the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners summarizing Commission activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall cooperate with and have the cooperation of any bureau, department, agency, board, commission or other office of the County to carry out its mission. The Commission shall have access, upon reasonable notice and terms mutually agreed upon, to all nonconfidential data, statistics, records and other information of any bureau, department, agency, board, commission or other office of the County, as needed in exercise of its powers and duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall have an executive director who shall be appointed by the President and other staff as necessary to carry out the work of the Commission.