

**TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

**PROCLAIMS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, on July 19-20, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York, leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the world's first women's right convention attended by more than 300 women and men; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth Cady Stanton drafted the Declaration of Sentiments and twelve resolutions, the only one to pass without unanimous vote, stated that "It is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise," and with this statement, the fight for women's equality began; and

**WHEREAS**, finally, under the pressure of the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association on June 26, 1913, **65 years after the Seneca Falls Convention**, the Illinois General Assembly granted women the right to vote in presidential elections making Illinois the first state east of the Mississippi to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, **72 years after the Seneca Falls Convention**, on August 26, 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution was signed into law granting women the right to vote, and only one signer of the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Charlotte Woodward, at age 81, lived long enough to cast her ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, **162 years after Seneca Falls Convention**, on November 2, 2010, I was elected as the first woman President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners of Cook County, the second largest County in the Country; and

**WHEREAS**, we are proud of the achievements of women in Cook County Government including: Five Cook County Board Commissioners; the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court; the Cook County Treasurer; the Cook County State's Attorney and the many women leaders serving in municipalities throughout Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, in my administration, 25 women have been appointed to key leadership positions throughout Cook County government; and

**WHEREAS**, my administration remains committed to advancing women's equality in all areas of Cook County—equality and parity for women is not just good for women, but is good for everyone in the Cook County community; and

**WHEREAS**, my administration continues to support the work of the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues and other similarly dedicated agencies and organizations to this end; and

**WHEREAS**, we must continue to honor the important sacrifices and contributions of women in this country, especially those brave women who blazed the trail before us and whom we honor today; we have come a very long way, but we still have far to go; and

**WHEREAS**, we as women and leaders must continue to forge ahead as one to raise awareness and take positive action on issues that impact the lives of women and girls in Cook County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2011, as **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY IN COOK COUNTY**. I call upon the people of Cook County to celebrate the achievement of women and recommit themselves to the goal of true gender equality in Cook County.