



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-1

Issued by

**TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT,
FOREST PRESEVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Cook County, Illinois

March 13, 2020

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020, and the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in over 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cook County Code of Ordinances, Sections 26-36 and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, on March 10, 2020, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle found that the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act and a disaster under the Cook County Code of Ordinances Sec. 26-36 and issued a proclamation of disaster for Cook County; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Proclamation of Disaster issued by Cook County on March 10, 2020, the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security has activated the County's Emergency Operations Plan and is coordinating county and local governmental resources and response activities in an effort to prevent and reduce further damage and hazards, protect the health and safety of persons, protect property and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County ("Forest Preserve District") is covered under Cook County's Emergency Operations Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Forest Preserve District to be prepared to work with the County to aid and assist in the implementation of Cook County's Emergency Operations Plan, and in accordance with Cook County's March 10, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster and activation of Cook

County's Emergency Operations Plan, place restrictions on Forest Preserve District meetings and committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, actions must be taken to ensure the continuity of governmental function while we work with Cook County to explore solutions to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that employees of the Forest Preserve District and Cook County residents and visitors remain safe and secure.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the laws of the State of Illinois, the March 10, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster and activation of Cook County's Emergency Operations Plan,

I, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, **DO HEREBY ORDER**, as follows:

1. Meetings of the Conservation and Policy Council created by Forest Preserve District ordinance shall be canceled in the months of March and April of 2020.
2. All committee and sub-committee meetings of the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners except for the Finance Committee shall be cancelled for the month of March, 2020.
3. The March 24, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting and Forest Preserve District Board Meeting shall be rescheduled to March 26, 2020 and be limited to matters that require immediate approval or require referral to committee for approval in April; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that to the extent the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners holds board or committee meetings in the month of March or April of 2020, the public is strongly encouraged to view the livestream of said meetings online at <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> and should a member of the public desire to provide public testimony at said meetings, they are strongly encouraged to provide written testimony to the Secretary of the Board at cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov or via fax to (312) 603-4683 in lieu of physical attendance at said meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that should members of the public choose to physically attend to view or provide testimony at a Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners board or committee meeting in March or April of 2020, said person will be given the opportunity to provide public testimony; however, the Secretary of the Board will be directed to restrict capacity for public attendance at said meetings and utilize Conference Rooms A and B in Room 442 at the Cook County Building located at 118 N. Clark Street, Chicago Illinois as a remote location where members of the public choosing to attend said meetings can view the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners board or committee meetings via an online feed; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that only essential employees and employees charged with presenting an item on the applicable meeting agenda shall attend said meetings in March and April of 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that should the Finance Committee of the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners be unable to meet in the month of March or April of 2020, the Chief

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Financial Officer shall hereby be authorized to issue payments for court ordered payments, workers' compensation claims, settlements, and any other payments that would normally require pre-approval from the Finance Committee; a report of any said payments issued due to cancellation of a March or April, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting will be provided to the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that, this order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the Secretary of the Board and that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District to employees of the Forest Preserve District.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the Secretary of the Board to those that are registered to receive notice of Forest Preserve District meetings.



Toni Preckwinkle
President

Dated: March 13, 2020

ATTEST:



Matthew DeLeon
Forest Preserve District of Cook County Secretary of the Board

Received and Filed: March 13, 2020