

Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by

**THE HONORABLE TONI PRECKWICKLE, PRESIDENT, JESUS G. GARCIA, STANLEY MOORE, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, AND LARRY SUFFREDIN
COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of April is known around the country as Fair Housing Month; and

WHEREAS, April 2013 marks the 45th anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act was intended to end discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin and sex at a time when African Americans, Latinos, and other minorities, including the families of American soldiers who fought and died in Vietnam, were often denied housing choice in certain areas; and

WHEREAS, during that time, persons who objected to housing discrimination were often met with resistance, hostility, and even violence; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the fight for fair housing since the Summer of 1966, when he marched with residents to demand fair housing in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act was the subject of a contentious debate in the Senate, but was passed quickly by the House of Representatives after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it into law on April 11, 1968; and

WHEREAS, despite this landmark legislation, housing remained segregated in many areas of the United States for decades; and

WHEREAS, the inability of minorities to secure housing in opportunity areas perpetuated the growth of inner city communities plagued by high unemployment, crime, and other social ills; and

WHEREAS, subsequent efforts to address these social ills have been and continue to be necessary; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's own Human Rights Ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry,

sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, source of income, gender identity, or housing status, with limited exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of fair housing, and declares April as Fair Housing Month to honor of the achievements and ongoing commitment of individuals and coalitions that work to better our society by advocating for fair housing on behalf of all people.