



## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-1**

**Issued by**

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

**Cook County, Illinois**

**March 12, 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 is coordinating county and municipal 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**, it is the policy of Cook County to be prepared to address any disasters, and in accordance with Cook County's March 10, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster, place restrictions on County Board of Commissioner Meetings, County Board of Commissioner Committee meetings and other Board and Commission meetings during the month of March and April; and

**WHEREAS**, actions must be taken to ensure the continuity of governmental function while we explore solutions to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that Cook County employees 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 Ordinances of Cook County and the March 10, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster,

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

1. Meetings of the various boards, commissions and advisory boards created by Cook County ordinance or resolution should be canceled to the extent possible in the months of March and April of 2020, and if cancellation is not feasible, the meeting agendas should be limited to matters that require immediate action by the relevant board, commission or advisory body.
2. All committee and sub-committee meetings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners except for the Finance Committee shall be cancelled for the month of March, 2020.
3. The March 16, 2020 Special Meeting of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and its agenda shall be limited to items that require immediate action by the Board of Commissioners.
4. The March 25, 2020 Cook County Board of Commissioner Consent Calendar Meeting shall be cancelled.
5. The March 25, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting shall be rescheduled to March 26, 2020 and be limited to matters that require immediate approval.
6. The March 26, 2020 Cook County Board of Commissioner Meeting and its agenda should 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 Cook County Board of Commissioners holds board or committee meetings in the month of March or April of 2020, the public is strongly encouraged to view said 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](mailto: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 Cook County Board of Commissioner 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 Board of Commissioners board or committee meetings via an online feed; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that should any of the various boards, commissions and advisory boards created by Cook County ordinance or resolution hold meetings in the month of March or April of 2020, accommodations should be considered by said boards, commissions or advisory

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boards to restrict the number of people in attendance at said meetings and provide remote locations where necessary for public viewing; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that only essential employees and employees charged with presenting an item on 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 Cook County Board of Commissioners be unable to meet in the month of March or April of 2020 , the Comptroller 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 Board of Commissioners and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that, this order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the County Clerk and that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the County Clerk to the offices under the jurisdiction of the County Board President, the eleven separately elected officials, the seventeen members of the County Board, and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System Board.

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



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Toni Preckwinkle  
President

Dated: March 12, 2020

ATTEST:



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Karen A. Yarbrough  
Cook County Clerk

Received and Filed: March 12, 2020