

R-24-06

Cook County Health Board of Directors

Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Commissioner Dennis Deer, Ph.D.

WHEREAS, Dennis Deer, born on August 7, 1972, was a proud resident of Chicago’s North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago and dedicated his life’s work to public service and uplifting communities on the west side and across Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Deer earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Special Education and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology from The Jackson State University, and later a Ph.D. in Christian Psychology from Agape Theological Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Deer returned to Chicago and founded Deer Rehabilitation Services to support the advancement of justice-involved individuals. He continued his non-profit work as Vice President of Organizational Health and Management for Lawndale Christian Legal Center, and as a revered community organizer; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Dennis Deer was appointed to serve as Commissioner of Cook County’s 2nd District. He was elected to the seat in 2018 and continued to serve honorably until his untimely passing on June 23, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer chaired the Cook County Board’s Health and Hospitals Committee and also served as Vice Chair of the Cook County Health Board of Directors. In these roles, he provided significant contributions to the health system, championing essential causes including food as medicine, behavioral health care, violence prevention, organ donation, and developing the next generation of health care leaders; and

WHEREAS, faith and family were the foremost pillars in Commissioner Deer’s life and inspired his extraordinary work as a public servant. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbara, and together they proudly raised three children, Kannan, Kaleb, and Trinity; and

WHEREAS, as a stalwart champion of public health and unwavering advocate for his constituents, Commissioner Deer made a profound and lasting positive impact on the health of Cook County residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Health Board of Directors, on behalf of the entire Cook County Health team and the individuals we serve, extends its deep gratitude to Commissioner Deer for his exceptional expertise, public service, and leadership. “Indeed.”

Approved by the CCH Board of Directors on July 26, 2024.

