

The Legacy of Cook County Commissioner

# RICHARD R. BOYKIN



2014 - 2018

Cook County First District



## COMMISSIONER BOYKIN

Sworn into office on December 1, 2014, Richard R. Boykin has served as Cook County Commissioner for the First District. His commitment both to the First District and to his values has guided the Commissioner throughout his time in office and has helped him fulfill the needs of his community.

While in office, Commissioner Boykin prioritized the reduction of gun violence, criminal justice reform, jobs, economic development, and the expansion of mental health services. Sponsoring 650+ pieces of legislation, Boykin established himself as a force for social change and a champion of human rights.

## THE FIRST DISTRICT

Throughout his time in office, Commissioner Boykin was committed to serving the needs of the diverse communities that make up the First District. Some of Commissioner Boykin's many community initiatives included:

- The Youth Employment Initiative that connected youth living in the First District to 1100 jobs available at Brookfield Zoo.
- The Second Chance Resource Fair, which connected formerly incarcerated individuals with job opportunities.
- A Student essay contest on the importance of voting which promoted civic engagement.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## TAX & ETHICS REFORM

- In 2017, Commissioner Boykin played a key role in the repeal of the Sweetened Beverage Tax
- Elimination of the tax on Feminine Hygiene Products
- Firearm Ammunition Tax
- Amended the County Code of Ordinances to prohibit Land Bank employees from purchasing homes owned by the Land Bank
- Created a position in the Inspector General's Office to handle sexual harassment complaints

During his tenure, Commissioner Boykin brought more than \$42 Million in county funds back to the District. Including:

- \$5.5 million grant for disaster relief and flood mitigation/prevention for the Loyola Hospital Campus
- \$3 million in Cook County Violence Prevention & Restorative Justice Funds
- \$5 million for Addison Creek Reservoir in Bellwood
- \$1 million for the Village of Maywood for engineering & design

## GRANTS

Commissioner Boykin fought to create and retain jobs in the First District. It is estimated that during his tenure, 333 construction jobs 117 full-time jobs, 38 part time jobs were created and 452 full-time jobs and 27 part-time jobs were retained.

Using Cook County's Tax Incentive program, Commissioner Boykin was able to incentivize private investment into the First District, including: \$18 million in Economic Development funds through tax incentives and grants to support 1st District businesses.

## JOBS & LOCAL BUSINESSES

# PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

## MENTAL HEALTH

- Sponsored a referendum that would ask the state for additional funding for mental health services. Passed with 1.4 million votes
- Secured \$4.5 million for Mental Health Triage Center in Austin

- Authored a Seven Point Plan to reduce gun violence
- Created a Gun Violence Coordinator & Gun Violence Task Force
- Sponsored and passed a resolution declaring gun violence in Cook County a public health emergency
- Sponsored a FY 2019 budget amendment that added 59 officers to the Cook County Sheriff's Office. These officers will be assigned to the South & West sides of the city to focus on violence

## GUN VIOLENCE

## GUN CONTROL

Commissioner Boykin has fought for increased gun control as part of his overall push to reduce gun violence

- In 2015, Commissioner introduced & passed legislation to ban assault weapons in Cook County
- In 2018, sponsored a resolution asking the state and federal governments to pass comprehensive gun control

Commissioner Boykin established himself as a leading voice on the issue of police reform.

- Passed an ordinance to bar the use of choke holds by law enforcement
- Held a Human Relations Committee Hearing addressing the claims of Human Rights violations at Homan Square Police site

## POLICING