

**03-R-417  
RESOLUTION**

**Sponsored by**

**THE HONORABLE JOHN H. STROGER, JR.**

**PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Co-Sponsored by**

**THE HONORABLE JERRY BUTLER, FORREST CLAYPOOL, EARLEAN COLLINS,**

**JOHN P. DALEY, ELIZABETH ANN DOODY GORMAN, GREGG GOSLIN,**

**CARL R. HANSEN, ROBERTO MALDONADO, JOSEPH MARIO MORENO,**

**JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, ANTHONY J. PERAICA, MIKE QUIGLEY,**

**PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, BOBBIE L. STEELE AND**

**LARRY SUFFREDIN, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**WHEREAS,** James O'Rourke was educated at the University of Illinois at Chicago and John Marshall Law School; and

**WHEREAS,** James O'Rourke began his career with the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office, he was assigned to the Law Division in 1973 and worked there until 1981; and

**WHEREAS,** James O'Rourke became an Assistant Cook County Public Defender in 1981 and practiced law in nearly every Criminal Court in Cook County as a Public Defender, including five years as a First Chair in the Criminal Division at 16th and California; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1986, James O'Rourke was appointed Supervisor in the Public Defender's Office; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1989, James O'Rourke was appointed Executive Director of the Cook County Judicial Advisory Council by then Cook County Board President George Dunne, he continued in this capacity throughout the tenure of former Cook County Board President Richard Phelan and was reappointed to this position by Cook County Board President John H. Stroger, Jr. in 1994; and

**WHEREAS,** beginning in 1989, James O'Rourke started working on a wide variety of issues affecting Cook County's judicial system. Challenges such as jail crowding, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center crowding, unfunded mandates, and coordination of the largest court system in American were successfully addressed during his tenure; and

**WHEREAS,** James O'Rourke obtained, on behalf of Cook County, over \$100 million in grants and earmarked appropriations to provide needed revenue and equitable funding for Cook County's judicial system; and

**WHEREAS,** James O'Rourke created PROJECT BADGE with federal funds to provide a countywide crime prevention program for Cook County. PROJECT BADGE operates in 35 suburbs in Cook County and has helped over one hundred thousand at risk youth lead crime free productive lives; and

**WHEREAS**, James O'Rourke has worked with Judicial Advisory Council Chairman, William R. Quinlan, to provide advice and implement progressive policies which have helped to improve nearly all aspects of Cook County's judicial system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, John H. Stroger, Jr., along with the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby congratulate James O'Rourke for his many years of exemplary service and send "best wishes" for good health, happiness and continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Approved and adopted this 4th day of November 2003.