

Cook County Commissioners
November 6, 2007

All commissioners present with the exception of Robert Steele

The boardroom was a full house yet again. I needed help from Comm. Peter Silvestri's office just for standing room.

Seventeen students from Prairie State, studying political science were introduced by Comm. Joan Murphy. Pictures were taken.

Pres. Todd Stroger introduced a resolution with the theme "Check Now" regarding early detection of prostate cancer. Two representatives of Dominick's were congratulated for Dominick's \$10,000.00 financial contribution (solicited from Dominick's customers) for breast and prostate cancer research.

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Metra and Pace all presented their budgets and proposed programs. All agencies were having problems meeting their budgets.

The CTA is the only Chicago transport company, by law, that annually receives a \$2,000,000.00 subsidy from Cook County.

Reduction of services was proposed as a solution, but there would be no reduction in safety under any circumstance.

Age of the CTA equipment and cost to replace were discussed. One new car for the Blue Line or any line is \$1,400,000.00. Fares account for 50% of the operating budget. Employee benefits will see changes. New employees will not receive pensions until age 64, up from current 55. Six percent will be deducted from pay checks for pension and benefits.

By 11:45 the room was half empty.

An ordinance has been approved that will now allow convenience stores located in unincorporated Cook County to sell liquor. The no open liquor in automobiles law will still apply.

There was very little media presence during the meeting, which is quite unusual.

Mary Ann Tate
November 15, 2007