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Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski Honors Kathy Donahue-Coia as the 16th District Unsung Heroine

“The entire community is enriched when we recognize the deep reservoir of amazing and talented women in Cook County,” said 16th District Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski.

In observance of Women’s History Month, the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners joined together on March 02, 2017 at the Chicago Cultural Center to host the 20th Annual Cook County Unsung Heroine Awards Breakfast.

Each year the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues sponsors the “Unsung Heroine” Award and honors one woman from each of the seventeen Cook County Districts whose contributions have silently, yet notably, made a positive impact to their communities.

This year, Commissioner Jeff Tobolski and Women’s Commissioner Terri Rivera selected Kathy Donahue-Coia as the 2017 recipient of the Cook County Unsung Heroine Award for the 16th District. Ms. Donahue-Coia was recognized for her 32 years of service as a licensed clinical social worker for the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, one of the largest not-for-profit social service agencies in the Midwest.

“We are honored to have selected Ms. Donahue-Coia as this year’s Unsung Heroine for her outstanding leadership and commitment to serving our most vulnerable, not only in Cook County, but the State of Illinois,” said Commissioner Tobolski. “She is a valuable and well-respected member of our community who makes an enormous difference addressing issues of poverty, homelessness, and hunger.”

Currently, Ms. Donahue-Coia is Senior Vice President of Program Development and Evaluation at where she oversees new program initiatives and quality oversight for 153 programs in 150 locations in Cook and Lake Counties in Illinois. Among the many programs, she oversees emergency assistance, homeless prevention activities, affordable housing development, child nutrition, family strengthening programs in early childhood, after school and youth services, and senior services.

Ms. Donahue-Coia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northern Illinois University and a Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois Chicago. Previously, she was an administrator of Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic and Family Violence Program at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke Hospital in Chicago.

Commissioner Tobolski represents the 16th District of Cook County, which includes the villages of Berwyn, Cicero, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, Forest View, McCook, Hodgkins, Lyons, Summit, Willow Springs, Countryside, Western Springs, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Northlake, Forest Park,

Westchester, Stone Park, Berkeley, Broadview, Hillside, Melrose Park, Brookfield, Riverside, North Riverside, and Stickney.