

Public Comment #1
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Representing: Self

**Agenda Item 56: Resolution authorizing an emergency appropriation for the CARES Act
Coronavirus Relief Fund**

Public Comment:

Javier Escobedo, a young man from Lake County, was the main financial support and provider for his aging parents and 13-year old son. Javier worked as a forklift driver at a contract manufacturing plant in Waukegan in the 13th County Board district.

The majority of workers at this facility are temp workers who have repeatedly expressed concerns to their supervisors and local officials that their employer has not required social distancing in the workplace, provided PPE, or properly sanitized the facility. Employees exhibiting coronavirus symptoms have not been permitted to quarantine at home. Workers were not informed of those in the factory who had been in contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

On May 3rd Javier died from coronavirus, leaving behind his son, his sister Yadira, and his senior parents. His death was preventable had their cries for help been heard.

The Latino community in Lake County has been disproportionately impacted by the virus, and their needs have been overlooked. In Lake County, confirmed cases among Hispanic populations are 2 times that of the African American community and 8 times that of Caucasians. They are essential workers and live in multi-generational family homes – putting more people in their community at risk for contracting the virus.

The data is a clear indictment on leadership and speaks to the complete breakdown at the very core of the County's purpose to protect our most vulnerable.

Our leaders are supposed to preserve and protect these communities and others, including our seniors living in long-term care facilities.

As the Board considers the deployment of more than \$122 million in CARES Act funds, please remember we have a moral obligation to address the needs of those who are the highest risk and most vulnerable.

After more than three months, and with more than 4,200 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among the Latino population and 72% of total deaths among those ages 70 and older, it's time to help those who need it most. People are still dying.