



Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Illinois Division

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки - Відділ Ілліной

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Russian-Language Comic Performance in Skokie Postponed Indefinitely

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - Illinois Division recently learned that Nurlan Saburov, an unapologetic Russian-language comic, had rented the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts for a performance scheduled for April 16. UCCA immediately appealed to Village of Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen and a meeting was set up with members of his administration, including Corporation Counsel Michael M. Lorge, Village Manager John Lockerby, Director of Marketing & Communications Ann Tennes, and General Manager of the North Shore Center Michael Pauken. They met with General Consul of Ukraine Serhiy Koledov and UCCA Illinois Division Vice President Pavlo Bandriwsky.

Messrs. Koledov and Bandriwsky relayed the concerns raised by the Ukrainian community regarding holding this event considering the unprovoked and unconscionable invasion of Ukraine by Russia, resulting in well over 4,000,000 women and children forced to flee their homes, that thousands of peaceful civilian men, women, and children have been brutally murdered, that scores of children and women were horribly raped and slaughtered. These brutal acts compelled Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to call for a worldwide boycott of all interaction with Russia, especially economic and cultural.

We are glad to report that the Village of Skokie and the Management of the North Shore Center respected President Zelenskyy's boycott request as a symbolic stand with Ukraine and against the inhumanity we never thought we would witness in the 21st century. The performance has been postponed indefinitely. Coincidentally, the North Shore Center hosted a benefit concert just the prior week to provide much needed humanitarian relief to the victims of the Russian war of aggression.

We congratulate the courageous and righteous decision that the Village of Skokie, under the leadership of Mayor Van Dusen, has made. Since February 24, when the Russian aggression in Ukraine increased, we have heard from many of our fellow Illinoisans, including Skokie residents, who have shared our grief. We are certain that Skokie residents are proud that this principled position was taken. Thank you for standing with Ukraine.