

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS
DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY
VON MATTHEWS
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA

GINA SMITH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

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OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
October 22, 2020

OPEN SESSION I:

A. Call to Order: The October 22, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:16 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dr. Susan Gaffney, Von Matthews, Hon. Marcus Salone and Tom Szromba

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Director N.K. Chambers, Deputy Director G. Smith, Legal Counsel E. Stewart, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator J. Jones and Administrative Analyst K. Johns

B. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

C. Statements by the General Public

There were no statements by the general public.

D. Approval of Updated 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule

A motion to approved the 2020 regular meeting schedule was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

E. Approval of the September 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Open Minutes

A motion to approve the September 17, 2020 regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous vote.

F. Director’s Report

Director N. Keith Chambers updated the Board that there was no new news regarding DHREs budget. He stated that DHRE’s budget remains intact. He indicated that President Preckwinkle has submitted her budget proposal to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and once hearings take place, he should have a better understanding where DHREs budget stands. Director Chambers reported that the interview process has been completed and the new investigator should be on board before the Thanksgiving holiday. Chairperson Szromba inquired if the new investigator would be dedicated to ethics or split their time between human rights and ethics. Director Chambers confirmed the new

investigator would split their time between human rights and ethics. Director Chambers reported Legal Counsel Emily Stewart has left DHRE taking a position with the States Attorney's Office. Director Chambers reported he continues to have conversations about the department relocating and will keep the board informed on its progress. He also reported the board of ethics would be issuing out a voting day ethics alert to reinforce to county employees their responsibilities and compliance.

At 2:16 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters regarding specific investigations, public litigation, and approval of minutes for prior closed sessions, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act.

At 3:05 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

OPEN SESSION II:

G. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the September 17, 2020 Regular Meeting

The minutes of the Closed Session of the Board's September 17, 2020 regular meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

H. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items

A motion to open an investigation into case 20MUI01 was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

I. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff