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STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF ETHICS REGARDING COMPLAINT FILED IN CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY TO ENFORCE ORDER AGAINST TAMMY WENDT, COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW COMMISSIONER May 31, 2022

The Cook County Board of Ethics today filed a complaint in the Circuit Court of Cook County to enforce its order against Tammy Wendt, Cook County Board of Review Commissioner for the First District. That order, issued on March 10, 2022, and confirmed on April 26, 2022, found that Commissioner Wendt violated two provisions of the Cook County Ethics Ordinance by hiring her first cousin as her First Assistant Commissioner. It ordered that she terminate the employment of her first cousin and pay a \$2,000 fine.

Commissioner Wendt has refused to comply with the order, requiring the Board of Ethics to bring this lawsuit to enforce its order.

The complaint requests that the Court confirm that Commissioner Wendt is subject to the Ethics Ordinance and order her to terminate the employment of her first cousin and pay the fine imposed by the Board of Ethics. The complaint also requests that the Court order Commissioner Wendt's first cousin, Todd Thielmann, to return to the County the compensation he received while he was improperly employed as Commissioner Wendt's First Assistant Commissioner.

"Commissioner Wendt has flagrantly violated the Cook County Ethics Ordinance by hiring her first cousin into a senior position in her office, and she has steadfastly refused to comply with the order requiring her to correct that violation," said Thomas Szromba, Chair of the Board of Ethics. "Orders from the Board of Ethics cannot simply be ignored. While unfortunate that Commissioner Wendt has forced the Board to sue to enforce our order, we will not hesitate to use all tools available to us to ensure that violations of the Ethics Ordinance be corrected and the County made whole," he continued.

The Board of Ethics is represented by Jose Lopez, Pravin Rao, and Gina Buschatzke of the law firm Perkins Coie, who have been appointed Special State's Attorneys to represent the Board of Ethics in this lawsuit.

The complaint filed today can be found below this statement on the Board's [website](#).