

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SISAVANH BAKER
DIRECTOR



COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
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BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS

DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY
VON MATTHEWS, VICE CHAIR
ANTARA NATH RIVERA
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA, CHAIR

OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
April 26, 2022

OPEN SESSION I:

A. Call to Order: The March 10, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dr. Susan Gaffney, Antara Nath Rivera, Von Matthews, and Thomas Szromba

Board Members Absent: Hon. Marcus Salone

Staff Members Present: Director S. Baker, Deputy Director J. King, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf, and Office Manager K. Johns

B. Agenda Approval

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

C. Statements by the Public

There were no statements by the public.

D. Approval of the March 10, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

A motion to approve the March 10, 2022, regular meeting open minutes was made and approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Proposed Amendment to Cook County Code Sec. 2-1(d)

Cook County Inspector General P. Blanchard recommended amending the Ordinance to eliminating the personal use of the County seal by County officials. Director Baker presented a proposed amendment based on Inspector General Blanchard’s recommendation. A motion to support proposing an amendment to the Ordinance was made and approved by unanimous voice vote.

F. Proposed Amendments to Ethics Procedural Rules – Board Approval

Director Baker suggested adding a time period of 30 days for officials to notify the Board of refund of excessive campaign contributions. A motion to approve the rules, including the 30-day timeframe, and send to the Cook County Board was made and approved by unanimous voice vote.

G. Director’s Report

Director Baker reported there were 4 additional staff advisories for a total of 14 and 11 additional inquiry routine questions. Deputy Director King confirmed all 2021 calendar year D2 audits have been completed with no violations. Director Baker reported that Communications and Training

Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf has developed an online, on-demand training that will roll-out prior to June 2022 for mandatory supervisors' training.

At 2:21 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters regarding specific investigations, ongoing litigation, and approval of minutes for prior closed sessions, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act.

At 3:15 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the March 10, 2022, Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the March 10, 2022, regular meeting closed minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items

A motion to approve request for reconsideration in 2021I005, was made and approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff.