

**Minutes of the Cook County
Board of Ethics – Open Session
December 14, 2023, at 2:00pm**

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Location: 69 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
Collaborative Workspace I

Attendance:

Present: Chair Tom Szromba, Dr. Susan Gaffney, Antara Nath Rivera, Hon. Marcus Salone, DHRE Staff.

Absent: None.

Open Session

A. Call to Order

Chair Tom Szromba called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

B. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Antara Nath Rivera, and seconded by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, and Dr. Susan Gaffney
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** Hon. Marcus Salone

C. Statements by the General Public

T. Thielmann and G. Blakemore provided comments before the Board as public speakers.

D. September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Open Minutes – Board Review and Approval

A motion to approve the September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Open Minutes was made by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney, and seconded by Antara Nath Rivera. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, Dr. Susan Gaffney, Hon. Marcus Salone
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** None

E. Notice of 2024 Meeting Schedule – Board Review and Approval

A motion to approve the Notice of the 2024 Meeting Schedule was made by Board Member, Antara Nath Rivera, and seconded by Dr. Susan Gaffney. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, Dr. Susan Gaffney, Hon. Marcus Salone
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** None

F. Director's Report

Interim Director King reviewed the number of open investigations, audits, trainings, and advisory opinions issued.

Closed Session

At 2:20 p.m., a motion to move into Closed Session was made by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney, seconded by Board Member, Antara Nath Rivera.

Open Session

At 2:52 p.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session.

M. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any

I. September 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Closed Minutes – Board Approval

A motion to approve the September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes was made by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney, and seconded by Board Member, Antara Nath Rivera. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, and Dr. Susan Gaffney, and Hon. Marcus Salone
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** None

II. Review Closed Meeting Minutes, May 2023 – August 2023 – Board Vote

A motion to release the Regular Closed Meeting minutes from May 2023 – August 2023, as redacted, was made by Board Member, Antara Nath Rivera, and seconded by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, and Dr. Susan Gaffney, and Hon. Marcus Salone
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** None

III. Portion of June 22, 2022 Meeting (Closed Session) Recording for Release - Board Vote

A motion to release a portion of the June 22, 2022, Meeting Closed Session recording was carried by a unanimous vote of Board Members.

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, Dr. Susan Gaffney, and Hon. Marcus Salone
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** None

IV. Request to Open Investigation - Board Vote

A motion to open an investigation was made by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney, and seconded by Board Member, Antara Nath Rivera. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Tom Szromba, Antara Nath Rivera, Dr. Susan Gaffney, and Hon. Marcus Salone
- **Nays:** None
- **Absent:** None

V. Advisory Opinion 23 A 002 - Board Vote

A motion to release and approve Advisory Opinion No. 23A002 was carried by unanimous vote of 3 Board Members.

*Board Member Antara Nath Rivera recused herself from this matter.

N. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:56 pm by Board Member, Antara Nath Rivera, seconded by Board Member, Dr. Susan Gaffney. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes submitted by DHRE Staff.

A complete recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.