

**TONI PRECKWINKLE**  
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



**BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS**

DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY  
VON MATTHEWS  
HON. MARCUS SALONE  
THOMAS SZROMBA

**SISAVANH BAKER**  
DIRECTOR

**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS**

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**OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
February 25, 2021**

**OPEN SESSION I:**

**A. Call to Order:** The February 25, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Director S. Baker, Deputy Director G. Smith, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator L. Fisher 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 Public**

There were no statements by the public.

**D. Approval of the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Open Minutes**

A motion to approve the January 14, 2021 regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**E. Director’s Report**

Introduction of new Director Sisavanh Baker. Director Baker discussed the ethics activity table which will identify new activity and will be made available to the board for their ongoing review of cases. Director Baker also discussed department initiatives that included being more efficient and utilizing best practice. She also mentioned that day-to-day operations have adjusted remotely with all office calls being forwarded to laptops and all messages left will be returned within 24 hours. Director Baker stated that she intends on reviewing all forms to ensure they are up to date, easily accessible to the public, easy to use and are on the department’s website. Additionally, she noted that the long-term goal will be to have the ability to respond to inquiries online and that the department is in the process of obtaining a case management system. Chair Szromba inquired when the ethics ordinance is expected to be modified. His concern was that the board may want to hold off making any significant changes to forms, authorizations or auditing, until modifications to the ordinance are final. Director Baker responded stating that recommendations, changes and proposals to the ordinance have been submitted to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and is expected to be presented to the full body by the end of March. Director Baker emphasized an additional long-term goal to achieve the highest level of ethical responsibility in operations within Cook County.

At 2:20 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.

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At 3:21 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

**OPEN SESSION II:**

**G. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting**

With the exception on one typographical error, the minutes of the closed session of the Board's January 14, 2021 regular meeting were approved and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**I. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items**

The Board voted unanimously on a motion to release the closed session minutes of the January 23, 2020 regular meeting.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion to open investigations 21I01 and 21I02.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion to issue a notice of determination as submitted to the board in 18I23.

**J. Adjourn**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:24 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Board Staff*