

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

**RANJIT HAKIM**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS**  
PEGGY DALEY  
DAVID GROSSMAN  
JULIET SORENSEN  
THOMAS SZROMBA

**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS**  
69 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 3040  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
312/603-4304 OFFICE  
312/603-9988 FAX

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 23, 2016**

**OPEN SESSION:**

**A. Call to Order:**

The August 23, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Board members present: Chair Peggy Daley and Members David Grossman, Juliet Sorensen and Thomas Szromba.

Board members absent: None.

Staff members present: Executive Director Ranjit Hakim, Deputy Director Amy Crawford, Investigators Alexis Serio and Jarrie L. Brown.

Others: None.

**B. Agenda Approval:**

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

**C. Executive Director’s Report:**

Mr. Hakim announced that he has accepted Investigator Alexis Serio resignation, effective August 26, 2016. Mr. Hakim and the Board thanked Ms. Serio for her service during her short tenure with the Board of Ethics, citing, for example, her contribution to the draft Investigation Manual, locating new data sources within the County and her continued work on pending investigations. The Board and Mr. Hakim expressed their congratulations to Ms. Serio and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Mr. Hakim noted that since the June 2016 Board meeting, Board staff has:

- Completed approximately 1,300 audits, generating 5 investigative leads to be discussed during Executive Session;
- Responded to 31 ethics inquires and issued one formal advisory opinion to be reviewed during Executive Session; and
- Trained 663 County employees through in-person channels, predominantly employees working in the Office of the County Clerk.

Mr. Hakim noted that the Board staff, in collaboration with the training division of the Bureau of Human Resources, is rolling out online ethics training. At the members' request, Mr. Hakim will circulate a copy of the online ethics training curriculum to the Board. Board staff are also testing out a webinar training tool for future off-site training, when Bureau of Human Resources cannot provide support and trainees cannot be reached using the existing Adobe Connect platform (*e.g.*, trainees lacking County email addresses).

**D. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the June 22, 2016 Regular Meeting:**

Minutes of the Open Session of the Board's June 22, 2016 Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**E. Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules:**

Ms. Crawford asked the Board to review the proposed amendments to the Rule 5 of Cook County Board of Ethics Rules and Regulations, initially presented at the Board's June 22, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Szromba proposed revising the first paragraph of Rule 5.6 to state, "Upon written request, information deemed relevant by the Board to any investigation shall be made available to the Board." The members discussed and agreed with the proposal.

Mr. Grossman proposed revising Rule 5.8(a) to match Rule 5.16 to allow the Board to share information with the U.S. Attorney's Office or other Federal Agencies as well as the County agencies already included in Rule 5.8. The members discussed and agreed with the proposal.

The members also discussed the need to revise Rule 5.10 to allow respondents to be "accompanied" by an "authorized" Union Representative at any stage of the proceedings before the Board and that such counsel or representative must file an appearance form. The members discussed and agreed with the proposal.

A motion was made and approved by a unanimous voice vote to adopt the Members' proposed revisions to Rules 5.6, 5.8(a) and 5.10 to the Rule 5 amendments initially presented at the Board's June 22, 2016 meeting.

A motion was then made and approved by a unanimous voice vote to adopt the following proposed amendments to Rule 5 as just amended.

At 10:30 a.m., the Board voted (4-0) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters regarding specific employees, hearings before a quasi-adjudicative body, public litigation, and approval of minutes for prior closed sessions, citing to the Open Meeting Act Sections 2(c)(1), (4), (11) and (21).

\*\*\*

At 11:23 a.m., the Board voted (4-0) to reconvene into Open Session.

**OPEN SESSION:**

**A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of the June 22, 2016 Regular Meeting:**

Minutes of the Closed Session of the Board's June 22, 2016 Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items:**

The Board voted unanimously to close Investigation 16 I 05.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the request of the staff to open Investigation 16 I 12.

**C. Adjourn:**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Investigator Jarrie L. Brown