

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
December 8, 2016

OPEN SESSION:

A. Call to Order:

The December 8, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Peggy Daley and Members David Grossman and Juliet Sorensen

Board members absent: Thomas Szromba

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

Others: None

B. Agenda Approval:

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

C. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Minutes of the Open Session of the Board’s October 13, 2016 Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. Executive Director’s Report:

Mr. Hakim reported that:

- The Illinois Supreme Court has issued a final decision in favor of the Office of the Independent Inspector General of Cook County Office (“OIIG”) and a

broad reading of the County Board's home rule authority vis-à-vis separately elected county officials in the case of *Blanchard v. Berrios*. Mr. Hakim stated this ruling will provide additional clarity to separately elected officials and the State's Attorney's Office that the Ethics Ordinance is intended to and can constitutionally reach officials and employees outside of the County Board of Commissioners and Offices under the President.

- In FY2016 (ending November 30, 2016), the Board conducted 36 investigations, including obtaining the return of over \$83,000 in unlawful campaign contributions. The Board further rendered advisory opinions in response to 215 inquiries in, on average, 2 days a piece. Finally, the Board provided ethics training to 5,806 officials, employees, vendors and lobbyists through a variety of in-person and online channels.
- The Board staff invested a modest surplus from its FY2016 budget in the purchase of new equipment for its investigators, including surveillance cameras, recorders and binoculars. The Board also obtained access to the Accurant database to facilitate its investigative activities and will renew an application for access to the LEADS database.

At 2:15 p.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 3:43 p.m., the Board voted (4-0) to reconvene into Open Session.

OPEN SESSION:

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Minutes of the Closed Session of the Board's October 13, 2016 Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items:

A motion was made to direct the Board staff to revise their draft of Advisory Opinion 17A01 to reverse previous staff opinions providing that indirect or "grassroots" lobbying does not trigger the registration requirements of the Cook County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance and to explain that such lobbying is within the plain language of the broad definition of "lobbying" in the Cook County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance and public policy favors disclosure. The motion continued that the revised draft of Advisory Opinion 17A01 should note that the

Cook County Board of Commissioners may wish to amend the Cook County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance to bolster the reporting requirements for grassroots lobbyists going forward, but that the Cook County Board of Ethics would give grassroots lobbyist a grace period until January 20th to register if they have conducted previous grassroots lobbying activity without registering. The motion made was approved by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was then made to approve the staff's draft of Advisory Opinion 17A01 as so amended. This motion was also approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Adjourn:

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:49 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Investigator Jarrie L. Brown.