

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RANJIT HAKIM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS

PEGGY DALEY
DAVID GROSSMAN
VON MATTHEWS
JULIET SORENSEN
THOMAS SZROMBA

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

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OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
May 1, 2018

OPEN SESSION:

A. Call to Order:

The May 1, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Peggy Daley and Members David Grossman, Von Matthews and Thomas Szromba

Board members absent: Juliet Sorensen

Staff members present: Executive Director Ranjit Hakim, Legal Counsel Emily Stewart, and Investigator Samantha Giacobbe

B. Agenda Approval:

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

C. Statements by the General Public:

Ellen M. Carey and Kevin Forde of Forde Law Office LLP, on behalf of their client Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios, and James Nally, on behalf of his client John Norris, were present and addressed the Board regarding Agenda Items II.E.ii. and II.E.iii. Carey requested that the Board give her client more time to investigate the recent notices of violation issued by the Board. In addition, Carey and Forde requested that the Board refrain from issuing any new notices of determination against their client until the appellate court resolves her client’s appeal of Judge Taylor’s decision in *Berrios, et al. v. Cook County Board of Commissioners, et al.*, Case No. 18CH11102, particularly in light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s opinion in *Sessions v. Dimaya*.

Edward Pacer of Peckar & Abramson, P.C. (representing Clayco and Elaine Lockwood Bean), Carmen Hernandez, General Counsel for Clayco, and Elaine Lockwood Bean, the former Bureau Chief of the Cook County Bureau of Asset Management, were also present and addressed the Board regarding Agenda Item II.B.i. Pacer and Hernandez requested that the Board find that

Lockwood Bean's actions on behalf of the County with respect to Clayco in May 2016 did not involve the "award of a contract," and consequently, her decision to accept a position with Clayco in March 2017 did not violate § 2-580(c) of the County's Ethics Ordinance.

D. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting:

Minutes of the Open Session of the Board's March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

At 2:49 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, pursuant to sections 2(c)(1), (4), (11), and (21) of the Open Meeting Act.

At 3:23 p.m., the Board voted (4-0) to reconvene into Open Session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting:

Minutes of the Closed Session of the Board's March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items:

- i.** A motion to continue 17I04 and 4Q17:09-4Q17:10 until the next meeting on May 31, 2018 was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- ii.** A motion to close 17I10 was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- iii.** A motion was made to adopt the draft Notices of Determination proposing the assessment of fines against the following entities and was approved by unanimous voice vote.
 - a.** Joseph Berrios and the 31st Ward Democratic Organization, in the amount of \$77,000, for accepting 77 campaign contributions in excess of the limits established by Section 2-585(b) of the Ethics Ordinance from property tax attorneys and law firms seeking official action from the Cook County Assessor's Office in Matter Nos. 4Q17:19-4Q17:26, 4Q17:28-4Q17:38, 4Q17:40-4Q17:43, 4Q17:45-4Q17:46, 4Q17:48-4Q17:53; 4Q17:57-4Q17:60, 4Q17:62-4Q17:66, 4Q17:70-4Q17:74, 4Q17:76, 4Q17:80-4Q17:89, 4Q17:93-4Q17:94, 4Q17:347-4Q17:365; and

- b. Joseph Berrios and the Committee to Elect Joseph Berrios, in the amount of 50,000 for accepting 50 campaign contributions in excess of the limits established by Section 2-585(b) of the Ethics Ordinance from property tax attorneys and law firms seeking official action from the Cook County Assessor's Office in Matter Nos. 4Q17:145-4Q17:150, 4Q17:152-4Q17:160, 4Q17:162-4Q17:167, 4Q17:170-4Q17:172, 4Q17:174-4Q17:175, 4Q17:177-4Q17:178, 4Q17:182-4Q17:183, 4Q17:187-4Q17:194, 4Q17:196-4Q17:201; 4Q17:203-4Q17:206; 4Q17:366-4Q17:367

C. Director Hakim's Farewell and Transfer of Delegation Authority to Acting Director Amy Crawford

- i. Director Hakim announced that he would be resigning from his position as the Executive Director of the Cook County Board of Ethics. The Board thanked Director Hakim for his tremendous service and the wonderful work that he has done.
- ii. A motion was then made to transfer the Board's delegated authority from Director Hakim to Acting Director Crawford effective May 11, 2018. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. Adjourn:

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Legal Counsel, Emily Stewart