

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

N. KEITH CHAMBERS
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
October 31, 2019

OPEN SESSION I:

A. Call to Order:

The October 31, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 10:40 a.m.

Board members present: Chair Peggy Daley, Juliet Sorensen, David Grossman, Von Matthews and Tom Szromba

Board members absent: None

Staff members present: Deputy Director Gina Smith, Legal Counsel Emily Stewart, and Investigator Jason Jones

B. Agenda Approval:

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

C. Statements by the General Public:

There were no comments from the general public.

D. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the September 26, 2019 Regular Meeting:

The minutes of the Open Session of the Board’s September 26, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Director’s Report

Legal Counsel Emily Stewart commented on the Berrios litigation stating the judge is still in the process of issuing her opinion.

Deputy Director Gina Smith reported that the department was approved to hire for two positions, an additional Investigator and an Outreach Coordinator to meet DHRE’s

growing demands. The Department explained that it will begin the hiring process in FY20 after the budget is approved. Public outreach efforts will also expand as well as educating employees and elected officials on the different provisions of the Human Rights and Ethics ordinances.

Oliver Serafini was introduced to the Board and staff. He is assisting Board member Juliet Sorenson with drafting amendments to the ethics ordinance.

At 10:50 a.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.

At 11:15 a.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into Open Session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the September 26, 2019 Regular Meeting:

The minutes of the Closed Session of the Board's September 26, 2019 regular meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Update from Board Subcommittee on Amendments to the County's Ethics Ordinance

Commissioners and staff reviewed a draft of the proposed amendments to the following sections:

- * Section 2-575- currently a reserved section. To expand the Board's jurisdiction to include sexual harassment.
- * Section 2-572- Improper influence.
- * Section 2-574- Receiving and soliciting gifts and favors
- * Section 2-578- Conflicts of interest.
- * Section 2-579- Representation of other persons.
- * Section 2-602 – Fines (increasing from \$5,000 to \$10,000)

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff