

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SISAVANH BAKER
DIRECTOR



COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
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BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS
DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY
VON MATTHEWS
ANTARA NATH RIVERA
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA, CHAIRPERSON

OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2021

OPEN SESSION I:

- A. Call to Order:** The December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dr. Susan Gaffney, Antara Nath Rivera, Honorable Marcus Salone, Von Matthews, and Thomas Szromba

Staff Members Present: Director S. Baker, Deputy Director J. King, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf, 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 General Public.

D. Approval of the November 4, 2021, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

A motion to approve the November 4, 2021, regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

E. Director’s Report

Director S. Baker reported that for fiscal year 2021 there were a total of eleven investigations. She noted that staff were extremely busy with advisory requests, routine inquiries, increased employees’ trainings, D2 audits and contract compliance reviews. Director S. Baker reviewed the main areas impacted by the Ethics Ordinance amendments, including lobbyist registration, clarification on county entities subject to the Ethics Code, and clarification regarding the Board’s enforcement authority. Director S. Baker noted that staff would draft proposed procedural rule changes pursuant to the new ordinance amendments. She informed the Board that there are numerous forms, training materials, informational brochures and communications that need to go out regarding the ordinance amendments.

F. 2021 Annual Ethics Report

A motion to approve the 2021 Annual Ethics Report was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

G. 2022 Meeting Schedule – Request for Approval

A motion to approve the 2022 meeting schedule was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

At 2:20 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters regarding specific investigations, current litigation, and review minutes for prior closed session, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act.

At 3:05 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the November 4, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the November 4, 2021, regular meeting closed minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items

There were no executive session items that needed a vote.

C. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff.