

**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**  
**November 4, 2021**

**OPEN SESSION I:**

**A. Call to Order:** The November 4, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Von Matthews

**Staff Members Present:** Director S. Baker, Legal Counsel J. King, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Communications 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 August 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Open Minutes**  
A motion to approve the August 26, 2021 regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**E. Approval of the September 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Open Minutes**  
A motion to approve the September 23, 2021 regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**F. Welcome New Board Member – Antara Nath Rivera**

**G. Director’s Report**  
Director S. Baker reported that the ethics reform bill had passed in Springfield. She stated that staff has had conversations with Commissioner Suffredin and his team, as well as the President’s office as to what needs to be amended and how the ethics ordinance will be impacted. She emphasized that staff anticipates what the lobbyist preemption will look like, and will it eliminate the work that is handled by the Cook County Clerk’s Office in terms of registration, or will all lobbyists be registered in one central location under the State of Illinois.

Director Baker discussed coming up with a vision statement, goals, and values for the board. She

noted that at the next meeting, she will present proposed language and looks forward to receiving recommendations from all board members to gain a sense of direction they'd like to move towards in 2022.

Director Baker reported that staff has had regular meetings with the Cook County Procurement Department to streamline and outline a process to review vendor contracts before they are presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Director Baker indicated that all employees under the Office of the President, take annual trainings. She mentioned that staff presented a "Lunch and Learn" training on reminders for the election season in which 32 Cook County employees attended. Director Baker also mentioned that staff has trained personnel from the Clerk of the Circuit Court and that going forward, staff plans to develop supervisor and additional training for elected officials in fiscal year 2022.

At 2:14 p.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.

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At 2:37 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

#### **OPEN SESSION II:**

**A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the August 26, 2021 Regular Meeting**

A motion to approve the August 26, 2021 regular meeting closed minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**B. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the September 23, 2021 Regular Meeting**

A motion to approve the September 23, 2021 regular meeting closed minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

**C. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items**

A motion to open investigation 21I005 was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Board Staff.*