

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, VICE CHAIR
ANTARA NATH RIVERA
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA, CHAIR

OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 2022

OPEN SESSION I:

A. Call to Order: The July 14, 2022, 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, Hon. Marcus Salone, Antara Nath Rivera, Von Matthews, and Thomas Szromba

Staff Members Present: Director S. Baker, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator O. Cobbins, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf, Executive Assistant A. Sumpter and Office Manager K. Johns

B. Agenda Approval
A motion to approve the agenda was made and adopted by unanimous vote.

C. Statements by the Public
There were no statements by the public.

D. Approval of the June 2, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Minutes
A motion to approve the June 2, 2022, regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous vote.

E. Director’s Report
Director Baker reported that staff has seen a reduction in the number of open investigations over the past year. Director Baker reported that staff has experienced a significant number of routine questions being responded to and an increase of advisory opinions being rendered. She reported that staff reviewed over 3000 contributions in Q1 2022 and found six potential overcontributions, which are under review. Board staff reported on rollout for the supervisor training module. Board staff also reported that there has been significant increase in training participation between 2021 and 2022.

F. Ethics Rules Amendments – Status Update
Director Baker discussed Ethics Rules Amendments which was up before the Cook County Rules Committee. She stated the Committee had questions related to sections 8.1 and 9.10 during the last meeting. Director Baker reported that the amendments would clarify the process for employees/officials to declare dual employment.

At 2:14 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters regarding specific investigations, litigation, and approval of minutes for prior closed sessions, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act.

At 2:42 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the June 2, 2022, Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the amended June 2, 2022, regular meeting closed minutes was made and adopted by unanimous vote.

B. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff.