

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS

DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY
VON MATTHEWS, VICE CHAIR
ANTARA NATH RIVERA
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA, CHAIR

SISAVANH BAKER
DIRECTOR

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

69 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1130
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**OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2022**

OPEN SESSION I:

- A. Call to Order:** The December 15, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

Board Members virtually present: Antara Nath Rivera, Von Matthews and Thomas Szromba

Board Members Present at 69 W. Wash: Dr. Susan Gaffney

Staff Members Present: Director S. Baker, Deputy Director J. King, Legal Counsel K. Khan, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator J. Jones, Outreach and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf, and Executive Assistant A. Sumpter

Board Members absent: Judge Marcus Salone

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 October 24, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

A motion to approve the October 24, 2022, regular meeting open minutes was made and adopted by unanimous vote.

E. Director’s Report

Director Baker reported that advisories and staff opinions rendered increased from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2022. Director Baker reported that Commissioner Bill Lowry is the new chair of the rules committee. She stated that there is an upcoming meeting with Commissioner Lowry and Commissioner Degnen, Chair and Vice Chair of the Rules Committee, to discuss the procedural rules draft. She stated that she expects to share development from that discussion at the next board meeting. Director Baker reported that staff began reviewing second and third quarter D2 audits. Deputy Director King noted that the first half of the audit is completed with approximately 40 identified potential violations.

F. Regular Meeting Schedule 2023 – Board Review and Approval

A motion to approve the 2023 regular meeting schedule was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

G. Board of Ethics 2022 Annual Report – Board Review and Approval

The report will be made available on the Board of Ethics website and emailed to the Board of Commissioners and elected officials.

A motion to approve and issue the 2022 Board of Ethics annual report 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 pending litigation, and approval of minutes for prior closed sessions, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act.

At 3:24 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the October 24, 2022, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Board Member Matthews, seconded by Board Member Gaffney to approve the October 24, 2022 closed session minutes with amendments as discussed. The vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Board Members Gaffney, Matthews, Nath Rivera, Szromba (4)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Board Member Salone (1)

The motion carried.

B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items

A motion was made by Board Member Nath Rivera, seconded by Board Member Gaffney to approve the release of the redacted executive session minutes as discussed. The vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Board Members Gaffney, Matthews, Nath Rivera, Szromba (4)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Board Member Salone (1)

The motion carried.

A motion was made by Board Member Matthews, seconded by Board Member Gaffney to release 22A004 advisory opinion as amended and discussed. The vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Board Members Gaffney, Matthews, Nath Rivera, Szromba (4)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Board Member Salone (1)

The motion carried.

Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff.