



FY2023 Midyear Budget Hearings

Responses to Commissioner Questions



Offices Under the President

Lanetta Haynes Turner



TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT
Cook County Board
of Commissioners

- TARA STAMPS
1st District
- DENNIS DEER
2nd District
- BILL LOWRY
3rd District
- STANLEY MOORE
4th District
- MONICA GORDON
5th District
- DONNA MILLER
6th District
- ALMA E. ANAYA
7th District
- ANTHONY QUEZADA
8th District
- MAGGIE TREVOR
9th District
- BRIDGET GAINER
10th District
- JOHN P. DALEY
11th District
- BRIDGET DEGNEN
12th District
- JOSINA MORITA
13th District
- SCOTT R. BRITTON
14th District
- KEVIN B. MORRISON
15th District
- FRANK AGUILAR
16th District
- SEAN M. MORRISON
17th District

Office of the President
Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark St. Suite 1018 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-4600

To: Honorable John P. Daley
Chairman, Finance Committee

From: Lanetta Haynes Turner
Chief of Staff
Office of the President

CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite,
Interim Budget Director
Department of Budget & Management Services

Date: July 31, 2023

Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department’s budget hearing held on July 25, 2023.

1. Request ID #[1014-01]

Commissioner Quezada requested the total value of the real estate transfer tax.

Response: Total revenue collected from the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) was \$24.6 million in FY 2022 and \$11.2 million in FY 2023 year-to-date. The RETT is levied on the sale of all real estate properties at a rate of 25 cents for each \$500, or .05 percent. This source of revenue is highly volatile, subject to market conditions and largely driven by the sale of large commercial and residential buildings in Chicago’s Central Business District.

Fiscal year	RETT	
	Revenue	Total taxable transfer price
2022	\$24,604,356	\$49,208,711,980
*2023	\$11,155,838	\$22,311,675,960
*(Dec – June)		

2. Request ID #[1014-02]

Commissioner Miller requested geographic map distribution of where the medical debt relief had the most impact. She is requesting it by region and would like to see hospital systems and the exact number of people served by area.

Response:
The data we receive from the hospitals we have worked with so far is listed out by zip code. We are currently awaiting data to begin working with the GIS team to develop a map of the areas where the MDRI relief has been provided.

3. Request ID #[1014-03] (BED)

Commissioner Miller requested more information on the Small Business Source grants, and information on the capacity building and technical assistance when they are available.

Response:

Information on the Cook County 2023 Source Grant is available [here](#). The application window will remain open through August 18th. Grant administrators will begin application review after August 18th. Businesses will learn the status of their application in November 2023, and distribution of checks will occur in January 2024. Please visit Cook County Small business [events page](#) for the latest schedule of help sessions. FAQs are available [here](#).

4. Request ID #[1014-04]

Commissioner Quezada requested information on the number of people who have been relieved of medical debt by this program.

Response:

161,647 qualified individuals have received relief through this program, abolishing \$281,338,840 of debt as of July 2023.

5. Request ID #[1014-05] (BHR)

Commissioner Gainer requested a follow-up conversation regarding the three-month reporting lag for OUP hiring activities, and if the lag could align closer to CCH's two-week turnaround time for the report.

Response:

Pursuant to Cook County Board Resolution 23-1460, the Bureau of Human Resources was asked to provide a hiring report detailing the timeline for hiring and associated activities for each position in Offices under the President. BHR created the Hiring Report after collaborating with the Office of the President and Commissioner Gainer to agree on the information to be included within it. Per that agreement, the report is to be provided quarterly and should contain the timeline of each phase of the hiring cycle, as well as the pre-hiring cycle, and the first report was submitted in June. BHR and the Office of the President met with Commissioner Gainer again to review the report before submitting it to the Board to be received and filed.

The initial report created in response to the resolution contains data from Q1 of fiscal year 2023. The subsequent reports to be received and filed when Board meetings resume will contain data from Q2 and Q3. There is not a three-month reporting lag for hiring activities. Rather, the quarterly reports contain three months of data as agreed to with the Commissioner. Since BHR provided data in June for Q1 of this fiscal year, the information was dated but reflected what the resolution required. The reporting date will be closer to the timeframe of the data reported when BHR submits the Q3 report.

To date, the hiring report BHR is asked to produce is the only report of its kind that is produced by a county office, separately elected or independent. Although the Resolution references the extension of hiring reporting to include other County agencies, to date, no other County agency has been asked to produce a Hiring Report with the level of detail and specificity that is reflected in the Hiring Report provided by BHR.

Specifically, CCH has not provided such a report. BHR is not familiar with the report Commissioner Gainer references that CCH produced with a two-week turnaround time, but it is not a report pursuant to the above referenced resolution.

It is BHR's understanding that CCH provides a one-page executive level hiring summary to the County Board President that includes a high-level summary of hiring activities each month. This report has no similarity to the report required pursuant to the above referenced resolution.

6. Request ID #[1014-06]

Commissioner Gainer requested the performance report from ROI showing hiring goals and metrics for OUP and is requesting another follow-up discussion.

Response:

As requested, please see the following link to the Performance Annual Report for all of Cook County, [Performance Annual Report 2022_FINAL Digital_CM.pdf \(cookcountyil.gov\)](https://www.cookcountyil.gov/performance/Performance%20Annual%20Report%202022_FINAL_Digital_CM.pdf). The Performance Annual Report includes the Bureau of Human Resources' contribution to the Open Communities (Good Governance) goal in the OUP section.

To promote transparency in the recruitment and hiring process, the general public, Cook County employees and Cook County officials may view the Workforce Strategy Division Performance Management Dashboard through a link located on the Bureau of Human Resources webpage or directly by clicking

<https://cookcounty.data.socrata.com/stories/s/Workforce-Strategy-Division/n5qb-x4su>.

Workforce Strategy Division's Performance Management Dashboard includes metrics for the average recruitment cycle time, average employee tenure and number of new hires in Offices under the President. The Bureau of Human Resources determined that these mission critical metrics would be of interest to the public in measuring the efficiency of the County's hiring process and ability to attract and retain a well-qualified and diverse workforce.

The Bureau of Human Resources continues to refine the information that it shares with the public. Of note, during the next fiscal year, the Workforce Strategy Division will highlight its 90-day timeline for the full cycle recruiting and onboarding phases which is well below the industry standard of 119 days.

7. Request ID #[1014-07]

Commissioner Trevor requested more information on plans the County has for debt relief to medical providers other than the two healthcare providers mentioned earlier in the hearing. The report should include the number of people served by geographic location (Commissioner Quezada requested this information as well).

Response:

As part of the subrecipient agreement with our vendor RIPMD, they have been reaching out to hospitals within Cook County. The number of people served is 161,647 as of July 2023 And the geographic information will be available per the answer in **Request ID #[1014-02]**.

8. Request ID #[1014-08]

Commissioner S. Morrison requested that ARPA and Medical Debt program data be broken down by dollar amounts and hospital system partners with the geographic areas included such that allocated dollars are shown by District.

Response:

We are working with our subrecipient and GIS to build the map out once the larger files are shared with the County. Geographic information will be available per the answer in **Request ID #[1014-02]**.

9. Request ID #[1014-09]

Commissioner S. Morrison requested a follow-up conversation between OUP and his staff to get more detail on the ARPA and medical debt program reporting expectations. The request is for more granular information instead of the top-line bulk data that has been provided to the Commissioners the last couple years.

Response:

The Office of the President is available to meet with Commissioners and staff to discuss the subrecipient agreement with RIPMD.



Cook County Sheriff

Honorable Tom Dart



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER

COOK COUNTY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF

To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*
From: Honorable Thomas J. Dart, *Cook County Sheriff, Cook County Sheriff's Office*
CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite, *Interim Budget Director*
Department of Budget & Management Services
Date: July 31, 2023
Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's budget hearing held on July 25, 2023.

1. Request ID #1210-01

Commissioner Deer asked for additional details about capacity constraints among CCSO and co-responders, including municipal police departments, when answering distress calls.

Response:

The Cook County Sheriff's Co-Responder Program assists 23 additional police departments in Suburban Cook County. The CCSO Co-Responder Virtual Assistance Program (aka CVAP) provides access to mental health professionals 24/7 365 days a year. Officers can immediately connect an individual in mental distress to a clinician who safely assists in crisis intervention, de-escalation, treatment connection and post incident services. Currently, the team is composed of 16 mental health professionals, with 2 additional positions that will be posted this week.

We feel that we can manage up to 35 departments knowing that we have strong relationships with our treatment partners in the community. We plan to reassess capacity at 30 departments and look at additional grant opportunities to offset program costs. The biggest challenges we face are waiting lists for long term treatment services such as: therapy, residential placements, and sober living facilities. Currently, we believe our staffing levels are sufficient for our mental health responders and we can further expand to an additional 12 (35 total) if needed. The virtual response allows clinicians to safely and quickly respond without the additional costs, risks, and time that would normally be associated with driving to a service call. Co-Responders also have different roles that support the individual and loved ones involved in the mental health service call.



The CCSO TRT/CVAP MOU does not dictate how police department partners obtain their equipment, or the type of equipment used. Each department is responsible for their own equipment and police. CCSO provides training, consultation, 24/7 virtual mental health professionals, and TRT/CVAP cards. TRT/CVAP Partners are asked to email police reports to us for tracking and client files.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Dart", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Dart
Sheriff
Cook County Sheriff's Office



Cook County Clerk

Honorable Karen A. Yarbrough



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY CLERK, KAREN A. YARBROUGH

118 N. Clark, Room 228, Chicago Illinois 60602

Tel: 312.603.5076 Fax: 312.603.4977 Web: cookcountyclerk.com

To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*

From: Linda Gillie Batchelor
Deputy Clerk of Finance
Cook County Clerk Office

CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite, *Interim Budget Director*
Department of Budget & Management Services

Date: August 8, 2023

Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's budget hearing held on July 26, 2023.

- 1. Request ID # [1110-01]-** During the Mid-year Budget hearing Commissioner asked about the pension being deducted from the paychecks of their seasonal/per diem election workers. Is it possible to prevent this deduction going forward for the seasonal/per diem election workers?

Response:

We have been informed by the Comptroller's Office, by State Statue, all employees of Cook County participate in the Pension Program. The language is housed in the Pension Boards Statue. The Comptroller's Office is looking at outside vendors to help in providing different alternatives they can use for these types of workers.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.



Cook County Board of Review

Honorable George A. Cardenas
Honorable Larry Rogers Jr.
Honorable Samantha Steele



COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW

118 NORTH CLARK STREET
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
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GEORGE A. CARDENAS
CHAIRMAN

SAMANTHA STEELE
COMMISSIONER

LARRY R. ROGERS, JR.
COMMISSIONER

To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*
From: Cook County Board of Review (BOR)
Chairman George Cardenas, Commissioner Samantha Steele and Commissioner Larry Rogers, Jr.
CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite, *Interim Budget Director*
Department of Budget & Management Services
Date: August 7, 2023
Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

Honorable Chairman Daley,

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to present at the Fiscal Year 2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearings held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. The following information is provided in response to questions posed by members of the Cook County Finance Committee.

1. Request ID #[1050-01]

Commissioner Gainer requested a breakdown of the number of appeals touched by each analyst.

Response:

The table below details, by property classification, the number of appeals that will be reviewed by each analyst during the 2022 tax session. These numbers reflect the "Re-Review" process available to taxpayers who are dissatisfied with a BOR ruling. This represents an average increase of 2.7% in total volume.

For the 2022 tax session, 239,945 appeals were received, of which 194,336 were residential, 12,950 were condominium, and 32,659 were commercial. It is essential to note that one analyst from each of the three BOR districts reviews each appeal during the adjudication process.

	Residential	Condominium	Commercial
Average volume of appeals handled by BOR analysts	586,070	39,078	100,097

2. Request ID #[1050-02]

Commissioner Gainer requested that the Board of Review share their criteria for appeals.

Response:

The BOR is bound by the Illinois Property Tax Code to review and order the correction of an assessment based on a complaint that a property has been overassessed, underassessed, or is exempt.

The BOR collects and analyzes data using three methodologies in order to execute the valuation(s) of appealed properties. Included are cost, market, and/or income approaches.

3. Request ID #[1050-03]

Commissioner Degnen asked how much extra time is spent by the Board of Review on double entry of data?

Response:

The BOR does not conduct any double data entry. In BOR systems, all baseline data is populated through automated processing. Typically, analysts spend approximately 25 seconds populating worksheet fields, equating to a potential time savings of six workdays if the BOR were to implement services that streamline data processing.

For 2022 Tax Session

	Number of appeals for	Populating time average	Sum by seconds	Total hours	Hour Work Days	Total # of BOR analysts	Potential time saving
	725,245	25 seconds	302,185	5036	8	105	6 working days

4. Request ID #[1050-04]

Commissioner Trevor asked how much of Palatine township's drop in assessed value (referenced in the Steele Report) is related to Arlington Park?

Response:

Arlington Park accounts for 17.56% of the decline in Palatine Township's assessed value for the 2022 tax year.



Cook County Assessor

Honorable Fritz Kaegi



To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*
From: Scott Smith
Chief Deputy Assessor
Cook County Assessor's Office

CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite, *Interim Budget Director*
Department of Budget & Management Services

Date: Monday, August 7th, 2023
Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's budget hearing held on July 26, 2023.

1. Request ID #[1040-01]

Commissioner Gainer requested that the Assessor's office share their criteria for appeals.

Response:

We are setting up a meeting with Comm Gainer's office to discuss the appeals process during the week of August 14th.

2. Request ID #[1040-02]

Commissioner Gainer asked for the number of positions in the Assessor's office that don't require a college degree?

Response:

The Cook County Assessor's Office has one hundred and five positions.

- Thirty-nine positions require only a High School Diploma or Associate degree.
- Sixty require a college degree.

Of those sixty positions, ten do not require a college degree for internal candidates but do require a bachelor's for external candidates. Most of these are Shakman Exempt titles, meaning they are higher level and receive higher salaries.



Cook County Public Defender

Sharone Mitchell



Law Office of the COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

2650 S. California Avenue, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60608 • (773) 674-3217
Sharone R. Mitchell, Jr. • Public Defender

To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*
From: Sharone R. Mitchell, Jr., *Public Defender, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender*
CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite, *Interim Budget Director*
Department of Budget & Management Services
Date: August 7, 2023
Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's budget hearing held on July 25, 2023.

1. Request ID #1260-01

Commissioner Lowry asked for a list of the grant analyst position qualifications and a copy of the job description.

Response:

Commissioner Lowry,

Thank you for the question. Our grant analyst position was posted on June 8th, 2023 and closed on July 10th, 2023. For this posting, we submitted a request to edit the minimum qualifications section to remove, "Four (4) years of full-time work experience in grant writing" and replace it with, "Four (4) years of work experience in grant writing, grant management or general grant oversight." I've attached the position description with our edited qualifications language. We are awaiting confirmation from BHR that the changes have been accepted.

Please let us know if you have any other questions or concerns.





Cook County State's Attorney

Honorable Kimberly Foxx



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

KIMBERLY M. FOXX
STATE'S ATTORNEY

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
69 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 3200
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*
From: Honorable Kimberly M. Foxx, *State's Attorney, Cook County State's Attorney Office*
CC: Kanako Ishida Musselwhite, *Interim Budget Director*
Department of Budget & Management Services
Date: August 07, 2023
Re: Request for Information from FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's budget hearing held on July 25, 2023.

1. Request ID #1250-01

Commissioners Trevor & Gainer asked for updated recruitment and retention rates, including a hiring timeline from interview to onboarding (number of days).

Response:

The employee retention rate between December 1, 2022, and July 27, 2023, was 90%.

The employee retention rate was measured by taking the total employees on July 27, 2023, (1,218) and subtracting the number of new hires that started between December 1, 2022, and July 27, 2023 (85). The output was then divided by the number of employees on December 1, 2022 (1,256).

The CCSAO calculated the recruitment rate and hiring timeline by leveraging the Clear Company applicant tracking platform, which was implemented during the spring of 2023 for legal hires.

The employee recruitment rate between Clear Company went live on April 3, 2023, and July 27, 2023, was 81%. This rate was calculated by dividing the number of offers accepted (34) by the number of offers made to candidates (42). These are primarily Assistant State's Attorney positions.

The hiring process averaged 45 days for the 58 new hires that applied through Clear Company. The CCSAO defines the hiring process for reporting purposes as from when a person submits their application, through the applicant accepting the offer, and ends when the background check is completed.

It is important to note that attorney licensure requirements delay start dates for new law school graduates. For example, law school students offered a position by the CCSAO during the school year will not become ASAs until later in autumn when they are sworn in by the Illinois Supreme Court upon the successful passage of the summer bar exam.