Minutes of the Cook County
Board of Ethics – Open Session
April 24, 2025 at 2:00 pm
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Location: 69 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
Collaborative Workspace 1

Attendance:
Present: Marvis Barnes, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnen, Chair Seth Rau, DHRE Staff.

Absent: None.

Open Session

A. Call to Order
Chair Seth Rau called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

B. Agenda Approval
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Vice Chair Hon. Sinnen and seconded by Board Member Barnes. The motion was carried by the following vote:
- **Ayes**: Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnen, Marvis Barnes.
- **Nays**: None.

C. Statements by the General Public
- No statements by the General Public.

D. March 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Minutes – Board Review and Approval
A motion to approve the March 20, 2025 regular meeting open minutes was made by Vice Chair Hon. Sinnen and seconded by Board Member Barnes. The motion was carried by the following vote:
- **Ayes**: Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnen, Marvis Barnes.
- **Nays**: None.

E. December 2024 Regular Meeting Closed Minutes – Board Review and Approval
A motion to approve the December 2024 regular meeting closed minutes was made by Vice Chair Hon. Sinnen and seconded by Board Member Barnes. The motion was carried by the following vote:
- **Ayes**: Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnen, Marvis Barnes.
- **Nays**: None.

F. Proposed Changes to Board of Ethics Rules and Regulations – Board Review and Vote
A motion to approve the Proposed changes to the Board of Ethics Rules and Regulations was made by Vice Chair Hon. Sinnen and seconded by Board Member Barnes. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- ▪ **Ayes**: Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnen, Marvis Barnes.
- ▪ **Nays**: None.

G. Director's Report
- Director King provided updates on ethics activity. Activities include the current number of open investigations, requests for investigations, advisory opinions provided, inquiries submitted to DHRE staff. Director noted that the number of employees trained was higher last quarter because of the required make-up ethics training DHRE staff provided to County Employees. Contract compliance reviews, and sub-committee on litigation advisories completed were steady. At the request of the Board, DHRE provided a chart breaking down the types of inquiries that DHRE staff receive. The majority are related to Disclosures and trainings. The other category was large and DHRE will look into those inquiries further, they may be those not within Board's purview. Director King noted that staff are completing reviewing campaign contributions for calendar year 2024 and the plan for 2025 reviews is that they will be done at mid-year and end of year which allows greater view of excessive contributions. The Outreach and training coordinator provided updates on efforts made by the department to increase departmental awareness and compliance with the Cook County Ethics ordinance. These efforts included the final make up Ethics training for individuals who have not yet met their ethics training requirements for calendar year 2024.

Closed Session

At 2:11 p.m., a motion to move into Closed Session was made by Vice Chair Hon. Rachel Sinnen and seconded by Board Member Marvis Barnes.

Open Session

At 3:46 p.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session.

K. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any:
- a. **March 20, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes – Board Vote**
  A motion to approve the March 20, 2025 regular meeting closed minutes was made by Vice Chair Hon. Sinnen and seconded by Board Member Barnes. The motion was carried by the following vote:
  - ▪ **Ayes**: Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnen, Marvis Barnes.
  - ▪ **Nays**: None.

L. Adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made at 3:48 p.m. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes submitted by DHRE Staff.

A complete recording of this meeting is available at https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.