



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Report of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Thursday, October 10, 2013

10:00 AM

*Cook County Building, Board Room, 569,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois*

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chair Fritchey, Daley, García, Gorman, Moore, Murphy, Reyes, Schneider, Silvestri and Sims (11)

Absent: Commissioners Butler, Collins, Gainer, Goslin, Steele and Tobolski (6)

SECTION 1

13-1521

Sponsored by: GREGG GOSLIN, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN and PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTS RESIGNATION OF SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY METRA DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Rail Board or METRA is tasked with running one of the largest metropolitan rail systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the METRA Board of Directors have the confidence of the public they serve to oversee the Chicago region's commuter rail service; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of serious problems regarding the board's mishandling of important issues such as illicit influence and questionable contracts that undermines public confidence in the organization; and

WHEREAS, a recent preliminary audit conducted by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) into the Alex Clifford separation agreement states the “process was inadequate and not sufficiently documented” and the “settlement was not financially prudent”; and

WHEREAS, METRA Board Directors failed to consider Employment Practices Liability insurance on any potential litigation or settlement, which would have provided coverage if a lawsuit was filed by Mr. Alex Clifford; and

WHEREAS, the continued lack of proper oversight by the METRA Board of Directors has cost the taxpayers and ridership significant dollars and resources; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated July, 2011 the six (6) county chairmen from the Chicago region committed to replacing all present METRA Board Directors by June 30, 2012 “ in order to restore faith within the leadership’s body” as a result of the scandal involving the former METRA Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, the public has grown suspicious and skeptical as more allegations surface making it impossible for the remaining METRA Board Directors to continue in their positions with any public confidence; and

WHEREAS, at least six (6) METRA Board Directors are needed for quorum to ensure that day to day METRA operations continue unabated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request letters of resignation of the remaining three existing Cook County METRA Board Directors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the three existing Cook County METRA Board Directors will continue to serve at the pleasure of Cook County Suburban Caucus until suitable replacements are selected; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the remaining METRA Board of Directors to not take any substantive action regarding the hiring of a Chief Executive Officer or appointment of a Board Chairperson until all remaining METRA Board Directors have been replaced and a new full METRA Board has been seated.

Legislative History: 09/11/13 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schneider, seconded by Commissioner Gorman, that this resolution be deferred. The motion carried.

13-1533

Sponsored by: JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JOHN A. FRITCHEY, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE STRICTER CRITERIA FOR WHO CAN SERVE AS A METRA BOARD DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Rail Board (METRA) is responsible for overseeing a \$713 million budget and operating one of the largest metropolitan rail systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, recent scandals involving Alex Clifford's separation agreement have rocked the METRA Board and caused the resignation of the METRA Board Chairman and several Directors; and

WHEREAS, the METRA Board of Directors have a fiduciary duty to our taxpayers to ensure that the fiscal and operational health of METRA is sustainable; and

WHEREAS, public confidence in the METRA Board of Directors is at an all-time low and therefore more accountability measures need to be instituted; and

WHEREAS, 70 ILCS 3615/ 3.01 vests authority in the suburban members of the Cook County Board and the Cook County Board President to appoint five Directors to the METRA Board; and

WHEREAS, the only criteria that 70 ILCS 3615/ 3.01 sets forth for the appointment of a Director is that they reside in suburban Cook County; and

WHEREAS, proper management and oversight by the METRA Board demands basic requirements from an appointed Director; and

WHEREAS, chief among these requirements should be a threshold age limit, educational level, and professional background.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges the Illinois General Assembly to codify basic requirements in order for an appointment to serve as Metra Board Director.

Legislative History: 09/11/13 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Silvestri, that this resolution be deferred. The motion carried.

13-1791

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Romaine Brown

Position: Director

Department/Board/Commission: Commuter Rail Board of the Commuter Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (Metra Board of Directors)

Effective date: Immediate

Expiration date: Ms. Brown will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Stanley Rakestraw. The term shall expire March 31, 2016.

Romaine C. Brown delivered remarks and answered questions as to her qualifications for and interest in the position.

Chairman Suffredin entered into the record, a copy of Ms. Brown's resume, remarks and Affidavit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, that this appointment be recommended for approval. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Romayne C. Brown

Home - (708) 841-4214

Cell - (773) 418-3818

Email: rcbb926@yahoo.com

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Professional transit manager with over 31 years of operational and customer service experience in the following areas:

- ❖ Managed the operational, maintenance, administration and customer service functions for the Authority's busiest rail line. Responsibilities included monitoring rail service, labor affairs, passenger and community relations and administrative functions, including staffing requirements necessary for the efficient management of the rail route.
 - ❖ Ensures the judicious use of budget and manpower allocations. Assesses training needs and provides initial training, remedial training and training for rail changes directives. Monitors manpower utilization and personnel performance.
 - ❖ Manages the department activities, functions and personnel including the coordination of activities of the Operations branch as well as with other user departments of the Authority. Establishes goals and objectives, determines staffing needs and coordinates manpower requirements.
 - ❖ Coordinates and monitors responses to grievances in compliance with labor agreements. Assists in the establishment and revision of labor procedures, disciplinary guidelines and policy recommendations. Confers with Authority personnel regarding operations objectives and recommends methods and procedures for implementation. Interacts with representatives from the labor union and the Authority's Employee Relations department.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY – Chicago, Illinois

Vice President, Rail Operations

02/09 – 02/10

Manages and oversees a \$1.3 million budget. Develops and administers policies, programs and procedures necessary to ensure the timely, clean, safe and courteous delivery of rail transit service to 550,000 customers daily. Evaluates and monitors the performance of rail operations staff personnel to ensure compliance with established goals and objectives. Analyzes the needs related to passenger service, budget and manpower planning, training, program and personnel developments and safety functions and initiatives. Develops policy, procedures for collective bargaining negotiations as well as the betterment of management/labor relations. Maintains effective working relationships with various labor unions, governmental entities, transportation officials and CTA personnel.

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY – Chicago, Illinois

Director, Rail Operations

03/08 – 02/09

Developed, monitored and evaluated organizational effectiveness in order to sustain and improve the effectiveness of rail service delivery. Participated in the planning for and execution of rail operations facilities and infrastructure. Created and modified staging plans for service sustenance during construction, maintenance and special events. Established and maintained effective working relationships with governmental units, community representatives, labor unions, other transportation system officials and CTA personnel. Instrumental in the development of policy concerning absence management. Attended various business and neighborhood community meetings and public hearings related to mass transit.

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY – Chicago, Illinois

General Manager, Rail Operations

04/01 – 03/08

Managed, planned and coordinated through subordinate supervisory personnel, the activities of the Red/Purple/Yellow Lines, which included Administration, Transportation and Maintenance. Administered route programs and objectives to ensure top quality rail transportation service was rendered to the community service area. Managed and held accountable for the maintenance, service, labor affairs and administrative activities for the Authority's busiest rail line. Ensured compulsory vehicle inspections and maintenance were performed in a proficient and timely manner. Participated in the development and administration of Rail Operations programs, policies, goals and objectives. Meet regularly with management personnel throughout the Authority to ensure that programs and plans were effectively coordinated. Meet and interfaced with various levels of management from other transit jurisdictions and representatives from various governmental agencies, developed and fostered relationships, which served to benefit the route, Rail Operations and the Authority.

Other Positions Held:	Administration Manager II (Red Line)	1997 – 2001
	Transportation Manager, Rail Operations	1992 – 1997
	Superintendent II, Rail Personnel	1989 – 1992
	Superintendent Procedural Control	1988 – 1989
	Rail Terminal Clerk	1982 – 1988
	Rail Operations Employee	1978 – 1982

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Kathy Osterman Award Recipient - Recognizing Superior Public Service 1997

CERTIFICATIONS, TRAINING AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Featured Cover of Mass Transit Magazine – June 2009
Presidential Employee Excellence Award 2007
Rail Operations Technology Development Project Manager
Yardmaster Negotiation Committee
Leadership and Supervisor III
Customer Service for Managers
Train the Trainer Program - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Alcohol and Drug Testing
Situational Leadership Training Program
Front-Line Management Program

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

City of Chicago Intergovernmental Executive Development Program	2003
Harold Washington College Chicago, Illinois	1999
• Chicago Transit Authority's Transit Management Program	
South Suburban College South Holland, Illinois	1997

Commissioner Larry Suffredin

Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured and privileged to speak with you today on the occasion of my nomination to Metra's Board of Directors.

I should like first to sincerely thank President Preckwinkle who put her trust in me by selecting me to perform the duties of a Metra's Board Director.

In July 1978, I was hired as an entry-level rail employee for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). While working at CTA I had the opportunity to train and perform in various rail and administrative positions. Each position was a stepping stone to develop into a transit professional. I was afforded the opportunity to work with and get to know a great group of caring and compassionate people bound together by their zealous commitment to CTA and its mission of providing clean, safe, courtesy and on-time service.

It was working with these dedicated individuals that prepared me to step into my final position as the Vice President, Rail Operations. Where I was responsible for the nation's second largest public transportation system providing rail service to the City of Chicago and 35 surrounding suburbs. With a ridership of nearly 550,000, on an average weekday on eight rail lines.

I believe that the experience I gained afford me the opportunity to give back to an industry that has given me over thirty-years of transit experience. These are exciting times for the transit industry. To be a part of a long-term plan that will allow Metra to grow, and have a positive impact on the communities and riders make serving on the board worthwhile.

I want to be actively involved in advancing the cause of transportation. I look forward to working with my colleagues in our shared determination to establish Metra as a world-class transit agency that we can all be proud of.

I would like to thank you very much for your confidence and for this opportunity.

Thank you,

Romayne C. Brown



Cook County Office, Board or Commission Affidavit

Please fill out this application completely. Incomplete affidavits will not be considered for appointment. Please also submit your resume.

Please email the completed affidavit to Patrick Carey, Special Assistant for Governmental and Legislative Affairs at patrick.carey@cookcountyil.gov and Brian Miller, Office of Commissioner Larry Suffredin at bmiller@suffredin.org.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Which office/board/commission are you applying for? Metra

Last Name Brown First Romayne M.I. C.

Current Street Address 15635 Cottage Grove Ave. Apartment/Unit #

City Dolton State IL ZIP 60419-2744

Phone 708-841-4214 E-mail Address rcbb926@yahoo.com

How long have you lived at your current address? 25 years

Do you have multiple residences in Cook County? YES NO

If yes, please list your other addresses and which address is your primary address:

APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Have you received a Homeowner's Property Tax Exemption at any other address other than your primary address during the current tax year? YES NO

Is your primary residence located within the district of the office, board, or commission that you are applying for? YES NO

Have you reviewed the legal requirements for the appointment that you are seeking? YES NO

Do you fulfill the legal requirements for the appointment that you are seeking? YES NO

Do you possess any conflicts of interest that would prevent you from adequately representing the interests of the office, board or commission that you are applying for? YES NO

Will you notify the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Chairman of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners if there is a change to any of the statements set forth in this instrument? YES NO

Under penalties of perjury, I state that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, correct and complete.

Applicant's Name: Romayne C. Brown

Applicant's Signature: Romayne C. Brown

Date: 10/09/2013

Subscribed and sworn before me this 10th day of October, 2013

Notary Signature: Ann Frances Schaffer

