

**Minutes of the Cook County
Board of Ethics – Open Session
March 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm**

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Location: 69 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
Collaborative Workspace 1

Attendance:

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

Absent: None.

Open Session

A. Call to Order

Chair Seth Rau called the meeting to order at 2:03 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. December 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Minutes – Board Review and Approval

A motion to approve the regular open meeting 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. 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, employees trained, contract compliance reviews, and sub-committee on litigation advisories completed. Director King noted that staff are currently reviewing campaign contributions for calendar year 2024. Mention of the Cook County Procurement Code amendments and their impact on the Cook County Ethics Ordinance regarding the definition of "doing business with the County." Director King reported on the 2024 Annual Familiar Disclosure audit which includes vendors doing business with the County from January 1, 2024 to

December 31, 2024. Board of Ethics staff received a total of 154 disclosures. The Outreach and training coordinator provided updates on efforts made by the department to increase departmental awareness and compliance of the Cook County Ethics ordinance. These efforts included new elected officials ethics training, annual ethics overview to the Cook County Department of Revenue and an upcoming make up Ethics training for individuals who have not yet met their ethics training requirements for calendar year 2024.

Closed Session

At 2:14 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 2:43 p.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session.

I. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any:

i. December 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes – Board Vote

A motion to approve the regular closed meeting 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.

ii. Board Advisory Opinion 2025A001– Board Vote

A motion to approve the Board Advisory Opinion 2025A001 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

J. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:45 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>.