

**Minutes of the Cook County
Board of Ethics – Open Session
November 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm**

Location: 69 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602

Conference Room H

Attendance:

Present: Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnem, Sahar Segal, Marvis Barnes, DHRE Staff.

Absent: None.

Open Session

A. Call to Order

Chair Seth Rau called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

B. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Vice Chair Hon. Sinnem and seconded by Board Member Barnes. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnem, Sahar Segal, Marvis Barnes.
- **Nays:** None.

C. Statements by the General Public

- A. Kriley - Public comment regarding the Board of Ethics' oversight obligations and transparency standards applicable to judicially-related county officials, appointees and court officers.
- F. Calabrese – Potential violation by Cook County Board of Review employee to uphold their fiduciary duty to the County.
- J. James - Will file a formal complaint with Request a Board of Ethics Investigation using this form: Request for Investigation.

D. Introduction of New Ethics Board Member

- Sahar Segal

E. Staff Updates

- Legal Counsel promoted to Deputy Director

F. June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Minutes – Board Review and Approval

A motion to approve the June 25, 2025 regular meeting open minutes was made by Chair Seth Rau and seconded by Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnem. The motion was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Chair Seth Rau, Vice Chair Hon. Rachael Sinnem, Marvis Barnes.
- **Nays:** None.
- **Abstentions:** Sahar Segal

G. Director's Report

- Director King provided updates on ethics activity for the first month of the 4th quarter (September 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025), which included the current number of open investigations, requests for investigations, advisory opinions provided, and inquiries submitted to DHRE staff. Director King noted there was an increase in the number of staff opinions issued which could be related to the recent completion of the Ethics Annual Training. Inquiries regarding disclosures comprised the majority of inquiries handled in the quarter.

H. Social Media Usage Guidance – Board Review

- DHRE Policy analyst reviewed the draft Social Media Guidance for Cook County Elected Officials and Employees.

Closed Session

At 2:35 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 2:51 p.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session.

K. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any:

a. June 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Minutes – Board Vote

A motion to approve the June 25, 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.
- **Abstentions:** Sahar Segal

L. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:53 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>.