



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Virtual Meeting**

**BOARD AGENDA**

**Friday, March 12, 2021, 10:00 AM**

**Special Meeting**

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a virtual public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, email address, phone number, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized virtual public speakers shall be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

**PRESIDENT**

[21-2052](#)

**Presented by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED APPOINTMENT**

**Appointee(s):** Sharone Mitchell, Jr.

**Position:** Cook County Public Defender

**Department/Board/Commission:** Office of the Cook County Public Defender

**Effective date:** 4/1/2021

**Expiration date:** 3/31/2027

**Summary:** Sharone Mitchell, Jr. is hereby appointed to serve as the Cook County Public Defender for a six-year term beginning 4/1/2021 and ending on 3/31/2027. Mr. Mitchell will assume the position of Public Defender upon approval by the Board of Commissioners and following the expiration of Ms. Amy Campanelli's appointed term. Ms. Campanelli's appointment expires March 31, 2021 and all of Cook County thanks her for her service.

Sharone Mitchell, Jr. is currently the Director of the Illinois Justice Project, a policy reform organization dedicated to supporting people, programs, and policies that can reduce inappropriate incarceration, improve community safety outcomes, reduce recidivism and increase justice in the legal system. Mr. Mitchell's work has focused on adult justice specializing in pretrial issues, sentencing policy, and violence prevention. As the Director of the Illinois Justice Project, Mr. Mitchell is responsible for the overall direction of the organization, including creation, management and compliance with their operational budget, grant writing, supervision of employees, development of policy agenda, interfacing with their Board and the formulation of media strategy. Prior to joining the Illinois Justice Project, Mr. Mitchell worked as a Cook County Public Defender. His responsibilities at the Public Defender's Office included the handling of complex felonies, ranging from serious Class X felonies to simple misdemeanors, including trying numerous bench and jury trials in the Criminal Division and handling child unification cases involving the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Cook County Public Guardian's Office in the Civil Division. Mr. Mitchell has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and earned his law degree from DePaul University College of Law.

Mr. Mitchell satisfies all of the qualifications for the position of Public Defender as set forth in the Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/3-4004.2). This appointment is recommended for your approval.