

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Taken Wednesday, October 10, 2018
at 1:30 p.m.

Cook County Board Room
County Building
118 North Clark Street
Room 569
Chicago, Illinois 60602

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN: MR. JOHN P. DALEY

VICE-CHAIR: MS. DEBORAH SIMS

COMMISSIONERS: MR. LUIS ARROYO JR.
MR. RICHARD R. BOYKIN
MR. DENNIS DEER
MR. JOHN A. FRITCHEY
MR. GREGG GOSLIN
MR. EDWARD M. MOODY
MR. STANLEY MOORE
MR. SEAN M. MORRISON
MR. TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER
MR. PETER N. SILVESTRI
MR. LARRY SUFFREDIN
MR. JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MATTHEW B. DeLEON, Secretary
MR. ANTHONY W. LISANTI, Court Reporter

1 CHAIRMAN DALEY: The Finance Committee will
2 come to order.

3 The Secretary will please call the
4 roll.

5 SECRETARY DeLEON: Commissioner Arroyo.

6 COMMISSIONER ARROYO: Here.

7 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Boykin.

8 COMMISSIONER BOYKIN: Here.

9 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Butler --
10 is absent.

11 Commissioner Deer

12 COMMISSIONER DEER: Here.

13 SECRETARY DeLEON: Commissioner Fritchey.

14 COMMISSIONER FRITCHEY: Here.

15 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Gainer --
16 is absent.

17 Commissioner Garcia -- is absent.

18 Commissioner Goslin.

19 COMMISSIONER GOSLIN: Here.

20 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Moody.

21 COMMISSIONER MOODY: Here.

22 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Moore.

23 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Here.

24 SECRETARY DeLEON: Commissioner Morrison.

1 COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Here.

2 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Schneider.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER: Here.

4 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Silvestri.

5 COMMISSIONER SILVESTRI: Here.

6 SECRETARY DELEON: Vice-Chair Sims.

7 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Here.

8 SECRETARY DELEON: Commissioner Suffredin

9 COMMISSIONER SUFFREDIN: Here.

10 SECRETARY DeLEON: Commissioner Tobolski.

11 COMMISSIONER TOBOLSKI: Here.

12 SECRETARY DeLEON: Chairman Daley.

13 CHAIRMAN DALEY: Here.

14 SECRETARY DELEON: Mr. Chairman, you have a
15 quorum.

16 CHAIRMAN DALEY: The Secretary has informed
17 me there is a quorum present.

18 The first item of business is public
19 testimony. Mr. Secretary, are there any registered
20 public speakers?

21 SECRETARY DELEON: There are, Mr. Chairman.

22 Your first registered public speaker
23 is Mark Armstrong from the Chicago Urban Fine Arts
24 Commonwealth.

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. As much time as I
2 may consume on this course, the way the budget has
3 been explained to me -- I always plan on having a
4 big mouth. The way the Cook County budget has been
5 explained to me, which is kind of the way the
6 Chicago city budget has been explained to me -- you
7 all kind of take a Nancy Pelosi approach. You pass
8 the budget and then you kind of figure out what
9 specifically you want to spend it on afterward with
10 budget items.

11 I think what the reverend, with
12 Warriors on the Watch, and what Mr. Blakemore and in
13 his cantankerousness was telling you all is that a
14 lot of us doesn't feel that the budget represents
15 all of us in Cook County. We don't feel
16 transparency in the budget. We don't feel a sense
17 of fairness in the budget.

18 So, my message before you take the
19 vote on this budget, in addition to having some kind
20 of fiscal oversight or responsibility attached to
21 it, is that you take a world view of the budget and
22 think of the budget as the air that you breathe and
23 the water that you drink. We want a budget that
24 allows all of the people with the Sheriff's

1 deputies' departments to be under one unit and not
2 under a bunch of unions with this divide and conquer
3 stuff that is going on. I don't even know how that
4 is happening with someone who represents a labor
5 union on this Board.

6 We want a budget for recreational
7 purposes -- I know it is on the Cook County side,
8 but I want to include the Forest Preserve side. But
9 a Cook County Forest Preserve budget that represents
10 all of the urban fine arts community and not
11 someone's personal sense of what they think hip hop
12 is from a more hip hop endowed perspective.

13 We want a budget that is so fiscally
14 minded that there is no way the City of Chicago or a
15 doctor can overcharge you for things they didn't do.
16 So we need a budget that indeed represents all of
17 Cook County as the second largest county in this
18 nation by population, where the county seat is the
19 third largest city in the nation.

20 Right now, it might fall to fourth the
21 way things are going with population flight. Also,
22 a city in a region that is considered a world-class
23 center. That is what you have to look at. This is
24 not Hazzard County. This is not Peyton Place,

1 Maine, or wherever Grace Metalious put it in. It is
2 not Harper Valley. This is Cook County, Illinois,
3 in the United States of America and the world.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DALEY: Vice-Chair Sims.

6 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Thank you.

7 Something that Mr. Armstrong mentioned
8 in his comments to us -- I don't know if it will get
9 addressed in the budget. Correct me if I am wrong,
10 Mr. Chairman, but we did have eighty labor union
11 groups. Now we are down to thirty or forty or
12 fifty-something. It is shrinking. We are trying to
13 get better at that. I don't know if somebody will
14 address that later on in the budget.

15 CHAIRMAN DALEY: Maybe at the time that
16 they are up it can be asked of HR.

17 COMMISSIONER SIMS: When HR is up, that
18 will be the time to address the number that those
19 bargaining units have decreased?

20 CHAIRMAN DALEY: Correct.

21 SECRETARY DeLEON: Your next registered
22 public speaker, Mr. Chairman, is George Blakemore.

23 MR. BLAKEMORE: The staff is going back to
24 work -- good. The paid seats are now empty. A few

1 of the staff is getting paid, and the others. Just
2 maybe three or four concerned citizens at this dog
3 and pony show with Finance.

4 Chairman John Daley, over there at the
5 Hospital. His first cousin, Jack Daley, they have a
6 lot going on with this Auxiliary, with that coffee
7 house. This is corruption, nepotism. What is the
8 definition of nepotism? Entitled to run. Entitled
9 to jobs. Houlihan -- he is the Assessor. He had
10 his family. She supported the Assessor.

11 Waste, fraud, and abuse with these
12 neighborhood black properties being assessed more,
13 the poor areas. These rich area properties they
14 assess less. Transparency. This is waste, fraud,
15 and abuse with this budget.

16 Fines, fees, and taxation on the poor
17 middle class people, black middle class citizens,
18 white middle class citizens, Asian citizens, and
19 poor Hispanic citizens. Waste -- you have been
20 trying to get rid of Mr. Blakemore for a long time,
21 but my ancestors are powerful. Trying to say that I
22 hit somebody. Trying to arrest me. Handcuffed, but
23 I am still here. I am still here.

24 Maybe you're going to have to shoot

1 him -- or kill him. He is protected by the
2 ancestors. Once he leaves, his spirit is still
3 going to be here. His spirit will still be here.
4 He will still be fighting for justice and equality
5 for all people, legal citizens.

6 Again, clean up this swamp here. This
7 cesspool here. It is not in Washington, DC. It is
8 right here.

9 The fake media. I wanted them to show
10 me, show it when they handcuffed me, but, no,
11 because they said do not televise this. Do not
12 televise this because the citizens will be outraged
13 at what is going on here. It is time to clean it
14 up.

15 Now you all are talking to each other.
16 All of you are in this little swamp together.
17 Reverend Trump, our President of the United States
18 of America, and you are going to say he is racist?
19 Racism is right here.

20 SECRETARY DeLEON: Our next speaker, Mr.
21 Chairman, is Mary Hartsfield from Warriors on the
22 Watch.

23 MS. HARTSFIELD: Good afternoon, Mr.
24 Chairman, Commissioners. George Blakemore, who is

1 my friend. He is running for a republican, but he
2 is still my friend.

3 I want to talk about finances --
4 moolah -- money -- whatever you call it, dinero,
5 bread, cheese -- yes, bread and cheese. That is
6 what we are lacking in our community. We lack bread
7 and we lack cheese. We lack stores, jobs.

8 I told you all what our jobs are.
9 Loose cigarettes in packs, drugs, rocks, and blows.
10 Parks, do you all like to hear that? Come over in
11 our neighborhood and that is what you are going to
12 hear. What you are going to see, you will see young
13 men who got business minds that are being wasted.

14 Why? Why are those minds being
15 wasted? Because nobody is willing to go out there
16 and reach out to those young men out there.
17 Everybody wants to be inside the church. The church
18 is on the outside. Come outside the church. Come
19 on outside these buildings and come out there and go
20 get our boys. They are out there slinging them
21 packs. Now we have got the girls out there. Now
22 you use them inside them jails to make a dollar and
23 something change. That is all they make inside the
24 jails. When they have the commissary, they don't

1 have enough money to buy anything. So they have to
2 trade inside the jails.

3 I had two boys who go to jail, but
4 they got their GED while they was there because I
5 told them, their momma told them, "I got mine. You
6 all get yours. You just don't sit there and waste
7 your time." They just didn't go to jail for selling
8 drugs. Drugs was placed on my boys, too. They went
9 through all that, too.

10 The County Board, beaten by the
11 County, beaten by the Chicago police officers, and
12 nothing was ever done, neither one. Nothing was
13 ever done. I wrote them, and I complained and I
14 complained and I complained. Now I am advocating
15 that you all -- do the job you all was chosen to do
16 when you all got elected into those positions.

17 We are in a crisis. The only way we
18 are going to be able to handle this crisis is we got
19 to handle it together, and we got to handle it
20 right. You cannot steal the taxpayers' money and
21 utilize it just for one community, one neighborhood.
22 It is supposed to be spreaded amongst all of us. We
23 all are God's children, every one of us in this
24 room.

1 So, tonight do a new thing.

2 SECRETARY DeLEON: Mr. Chairman, that
3 concludes your registered public speakers.

4 CHAIRMAN DALEY: In accordance with the
5 laws of the State of Illinois, the 2019 executive
6 budget recommendation and related items have been
7 submitted by the President to the Committee on
8 Finance, and assigned file number 18-6084.

9 This Committee will consider the
10 proposed budget, offer any amendments, and conclude
11 its work with a recommendation that the Board of
12 Commissioners approve and adopt the 2019 annual
13 appropriation ordinance for Cook County.

14 In order to provide the citizens of
15 Cook County with an opportunity to participate in
16 the process of adopting an annual budget, we have
17 scheduled four public hearings throughout the
18 County.

19 To assist the Finance Committee in its
20 analysis of the proposed executive budget and
21 related items, we have scheduled a series of
22 departmental review hearings. Each elected
23 official, department head, and bureau chief will
24 appear before the Committee to present their request

1 for 2019, and to answer questions from Committee
2 members. The schedule for departmental reviews is
3 posted on the County's website, and it will be
4 adjusted as required. Please check it every day for
5 any updates to the schedule. Video of the
6 departmental review hearings will be streamed live
7 on the County's website.

8 The Secretary will now read the public
9 inspection locations, schedule of public hearings,
10 and schedule of departmental reviews into the
11 record.

12 SECRETARY DeLEON: The public inspection
13 notice for the FY2019 executive budget
14 recommendation -- it is as follows.

15 The proposed 2019 executive budget,
16 prepared in tentative form, is available for public
17 inspection at the following locations beginning
18 October 12, 2018. The proposed 2019 executive
19 budget will be available for public viewing on the
20 following website, beginning today, October 10,
21 2018, www.cookcountyil.gov/budget.

22 Here are the locations where the
23 budget can be reviewed in hard copy form.

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1 *****

2 The Bureau of Finance, Department of
3 Budget and Management Services, Room 1100, Cook
4 County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago,
5 Illinois, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday
6 through Friday.

7 The Second District Courthouse, 5600
8 Old Orchard Road, Room 149, Skokie, Illinois, in the
9 Office of the County Clerk, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30
10 p.m., Monday through Friday.

11 The Third District Courthouse, 2121
12 Euclid Avenue, Room 238, Rolling Meadows, Illinois,
13 in the Office of the County Clerk, from 9:00 a.m. to
14 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

15 The Fourth District Courthouse, 1311
16 South Maybrook Square, Room 104, Maywood, Illinois,
17 in the Office of the County Clerk, from 9:00 a.m. to
18 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

19 The Fifth District Courthouse, 10220
20 South 76th Avenue, Room 238, Bridgeview, Illinois,
21 in the Office of the County Clerk, from 9:00 a.m. to
22 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

23 The Sixth District Courthouse, 16501
24 South Kedzie Parkway, Room 238, Markham, Illinois,

1 in the Office of the County Clerk, from 9:00 a.m. to
2 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

3 Mr. Chairman, these are the following
4 public hearings that have been proposed by you, and
5 will be approved by the Committee, public hearings
6 relative to the 2019 executive budget
7 recommendation.

8 Monday, October 22, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.
9 The Second District Courthouse, 5600 Old Orchard
10 Road, Skokie, Illinois.

11 Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 6:30
12 p.m., in the Fourth District Courthouse, 1500 South
13 Maybrook Drive, Maywood, Illinois.

14 Monday, October 29, 2018, at 9:00
15 a.m., in the Cook County Building, 118 North Clark
16 Street, Room 569, Chicago, Illinois.

17 Then later that date, Monday, October
18 29, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., the Sixth District
19 Courthouse, 16501 South Kedzie Parkway, Markham,
20 Illinois.

21 Mr. Chairman, the departmental review
22 items for FY2019 will take place on the following
23 dates and times.

24 Monday, October 22, 2018, beginning at

1 9:00 a.m., and ending at 2:00 p.m., here in the Cook
2 County in the Board Room. All of these departmental
3 reviews are in the Board Room.

4 Tuesday, October 23, 2018, beginning
5 at 10:30 a.m. and running until 3:00 p.m., being the
6 last presentation on that day.

7 The first presentation on Wednesday,
8 October 24, 2018, will begin at 9:00. The last
9 presentation on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, will
10 begin at 2:00 p.m.

11 On Thursday, October 25, 2018, the
12 first presentation will begin at 9:00 a.m. The last
13 presentation on Thursday, October 25, 2018, will be
14 at 1:00 p.m.

15 Monday, October 29, 2018, the public
16 hearing at 9:00. The capital budget will be heard
17 at 11:00 a.m. that day on the twenty-ninth of
18 October.

19 There are four reserve days, Mr.
20 Chairman, October 30 through November 2, should
21 those be required by the Committee.

22 CHAIRMAN DALEY: Vice-Chair Sims.

23 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Mr. Chairman, I move
24 approval of the schedule of the public hearings and

1 departmental reviews on the 2019 executive budget
2 recommendations and related items, as announced by
3 the Secretary.

4 COMMISSIONER TOBOLSKI: I second it.

5 CHAIRMAN DALEY: It has been moved by Vice-
6 Chair Sims and seconded by Commissioner Tobolski.
7 All those in favor signify by saying "aye" --
8 opposed "nay". The motion carries.

9 This Committee will stand in recess to
10 the hour of 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 22, 2018,
11 with interim proceedings of this Committee
12 notwithstanding.

I certify that the foregoing is a
correct transcript of the original shorthand notes
of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Anthony W. Lisanti
Court Reporter

Date