



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ETHICS

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

2100 Ridge Ave, Room 2404

Members Present: Jennifer Billingsley, Elizabeth Gustafson, Karena Bierman, LJ Ellul, and Vincent Thomas

Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Mario Treto, Jr., Deputy City Attorney

Presiding Member: Jennifer Billingsley, Committee Chair

1. **Quorum:** Chairwoman Billingsley declared that the Board had a quorum, with 5 of 5 members present and called the meeting to order.

2. **Public Comment:** The Board opened up the meeting for public comment. Lori Keenan made remarks on behalf of herself and Clare Kelly regarding the last Board of Ethics meeting, appreciation of the Board's service, and the December 3, 2018 Rules Committee meeting.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chair Billingsley stated that the next portion of the meeting relates to approval of meeting minutes.

November 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes Chair Billingsley confirmed that everyone had a copy of the minutes; the Board affirmed.

Chair Billingsley gave the Board time to review the meeting minutes. Upon conclusion of the meeting minute review, Chair Billingsley provided one comment related to the November 20, 2018 meeting.

Chair Billingsley asked if there were any other comments; there were not. Member motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Member Thomas seconded. Members voted and unanimously approved the minutes.

4. **Update on the Rules Committee Meeting:** Deputy City Attorney Treto provided the Board of Ethics with an update regarding the December 3, 2018 Rules Committee meeting. He indicated that the Rules Committee accepted and filed the Board of Ethics reports for 18-BOE-002 and 18-BOE-003. He also indicated that the Rules Committee

received and filed, and denied the appeal related to 18-BOE-001. The Rules Committee asked staff to place on the next Rules Committee agenda the review of Board of Ethics and Code of Ethics processes and procedures. Chair Billingsley stated that the Board takes note regarding Alderman Rainey's vote relating a matter concerning herself during the Rules Committee. Chair Billingsley asked whether the Board should take any further steps related to 18-BOE-002 and 18-BOE-003. Deputy City Attorney clarified that the approved meeting minutes from the December 3, 2018 Rules Committee shall serve as the written report back to the Board of Ethics. The December 3, 2018 Rules Committee meeting minutes are scheduled to be approved on January 22, 2019. Chair Billingsley opined that she believes the Code of Ethics prohibits voting on matters concerning herself, so when an alderman votes on a matter concerning herself, she has violated the Code of Ethics. She further stated that she believes the City Code states that where an alderman violates the Code of Ethics the City Council may censure them. Chair Billingsley stated that the Board of Ethics should tell the City Council that voting on a matter related to oneself is a violation of the Code of Ethics and she recommends censure during these instances.

Member Bierman analyzed whether it is appropriate to make the aforementioned comment to the City Council at this meeting or a future meeting. Board members proceeded to discuss how to best move forward in addressing Alderman Rainey voting on a matter that is related to herself. Deputy City Attorney indicated that this item is not on the agenda in a manner specified by the Open Meetings Act. Deputy City Attorney Treto indicated that he will work with Chair Billingsley to determine what will be placed on the next Board of Ethics agenda.

Member Ellul motioned for a five minute break. Member Gustafson seconded. Motion unanimously passes and the Board took a five minute break.

Chair Billingsley called the meeting to order and resumed the meeting.

5. Approval of the 2018 Board of Ethics Annual Report: Chair Billingsley indicated that Deputy City Attorney circulated the 2018 Board of Ethics Annual Report. Member Bierman inquired whether the report presented was similar to previous reports and Chair Billingsley confirmed that it in fact was similar to previous reports. Member Bierman inquired whether or not the 2018 Annual Report should include recommendations for the Illinois Attorney General so future board members are aware of any such recommendations. Deputy City Attorney indicated that the Illinois Attorney General recommendations can be placed into the Board of Ethics Open Meetings Act training. The Board then discussed whether they should put in the report any 2019 goals. The Board agreed that the 2018 Annual Report should be limited to 2018 actions and accomplishments.

Member Thomas moved to approve the 2018 Annual Report as amended. Member Gustafson seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

6. **Review of the 2019 Regularly Scheduled Meeting Dates:** Chair Billingsley asked whether the January Board of Ethics meeting should be moved after the January 22, 2019 Rules Committee meeting. Member Ellul moved to change the January 15, 2018 meeting date to January 29, 2019. Member Thomas seconded. The motion passes. Member Thomas moved to approve the 2019 Regularly Scheduled Meeting dates as amended. Member Member Ellul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

7. **Adjournment:** Upon motion by Chair Billingsley and second by Member Bierman, the meeting was adjourned with all voting in favor.