

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, *Commissioner*
CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
August 10, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602
and via WebEx video conference*

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair [via video conference]
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent
Max Bever – Director of Public Information
Lance Gough, Consultant
Michal Czech, Videographer
Rick Thurman, IT
Kevin Thibo, IT
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow P.U.S.H.
Danielle Matzdorf, Arrow Messenger Service

- I. Call to Order: Commissioner Kresse called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. Roll Call and motion to allow for remote attendance pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7(a)(iii): Commissioner Kresse and Commissioner Swain were present in the Board's 8th floor conference room. Commissioner Swain moved to allow Commissioner Hernandez to attend via other means (video conference) as authorized by Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act as she is prevented from physically attending the meeting due to a family emergency. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the quorum. Commissioner turned the gavel over to Chair Hernandez.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 27, 2021: Commissioner Swain abstained on this matter as he was not present at the July 27, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 27, 2021. Chair Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved with a 2:0 vote of the Board, with Commissioner Swain abstaining.

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V. Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

Repairs at the warehouse have begun and will be ongoing for the next couple of weeks.

Last Friday, Operation PUSH held a conference on election legislation. As Mr. Holiday was unable to attend the conference, Consultant Lance Gough attended and represented the Board.

Next week, Mr. Holiday and Assistant Executive Director Aspera will travel to Arizona to attend the 36th Annual National Association of Election Officials ("Election Center") Conference from August 21st through August 25th

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report:

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera stated that she had no report to make at this time.

VI. Old Business

A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Mr. Holiday stated that there is nothing new to report in this area.

B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday reported that the first round of maintenance has been completed. A second round of maintenance will be performed later in the year to insure that they are ready for the June 28, 2022 election, then in March a third round will be performed.

C. Voting Equipment: nothing new to report

D. Legislation: General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that both State Houses are out of session.

Mr. Lasker stated that he and his assistant, Trish Sheehy have been working on updating the Board's Election Calendar. There are some issues with the legislation specific to the 2022 elections for which we are collaborating with the County Clerk's office to bring to the attention of the State.

Executive Director Charles Holiday called upon the Director of Public Information Max Bever to give a report.

Mr. Bever reported that he is learning the lay of the land, and is working with the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director on communications planning through the rest of 2021 and to support the elections in 2022. Mr. Bever will have more to report at the next Board meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Approval of a legal services agreement with the law firm Faegre, Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP for representation in the matter of *175 Washington LLC v. Chicago Transit Authority, et al.*, No. 2021-L-000891.

Commissioner Kresse moved to retain the law firm of Faegre, Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP for representation in the matter of *175 Washington LLC v. Chicago Transit Authority, et al.* at the rate of \$295 per hour. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

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VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Lasker reported that there was nothing to report other than the American Bar Association (ABA) issued model rules for Election Administration for elections around the country. Commissioner Kresse shared those with Mr. Lasker and the other Board members. Mr. Lasker stated that as he was reading through these rules he found that they show what a good job is being done here in Chicago.

IX. Financial Report: None

X. Public Comment: none

XI. Executive Session: none

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Swain moved to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12am

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Kresse", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary