

Commissioners

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, *Chair*  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, *Commissioner/Secretary*

**CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR.**, *Executive Director*



**Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago**  
**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of**  
**September 14, 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  
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary

**Staff:**

Charles Holiday, Executive Director  
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director  
Adam Lasker, General Counsel  
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent  
Max Bever, Director of Public Information  
Kimberly Carrillo-Walker, Finance Manager  
Christopher Tomecek, Assistant Manager – Pre-Election Voting and Logistics  
Rick Thurman, IT  
Kevin Thibo, IT  
Lance Gough, Consultant  
Michal Czech, Videographer  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

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

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: Both members were present in the Board's 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 31, 2021: Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 31, 2021. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

Mr. Holiday participated in a Zoom conference with the Illinois State Board of Elections and other election officials of the State to discuss Public Act 102-15 (P.A. 102-15) which has new cybersecurity requirements. The security requirements that were discussed at the meeting have already been implemented by the Chicago Board. The Board's Security Specialist, Rahul Patel, was also on this conference call. We are up to date with our cybersecurity measures.

Mr. Holiday attended the monthly meeting of ISAC (Center for Internet Security – Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center). The conversation was about the different security and fire aspects that have been reported throughout the State. The Chicago Board of Election's system is free of any of the issues discussed.

Mr. Holiday met with the 69 West Washington building management regarding securing space in the building for vote-by-mail and central counting, and for vote-by-mail adjudication processes for the upcoming election. In November 2020, we had the entire 9<sup>th</sup> floor. That floor has been rented, so we are looking for other space.

Tomorrow Mr. Holiday will be attending the executive meeting of the Association of Election Commissions of Illinois (AECol), and then on Thursday he will be attending its Fall Conference.

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

We are meeting with representatives of Dominion Voting Systems to plan for the installation of upgrades to the voting software ahead of the 2022 elections.

Ms. Aspera will be traveling to the Board's warehouse this week to check in on the progress of our summer projects as well as plan for the upcoming equipment maintenance projects for the Fall.

In accordance with the Environmental Safety Standards we will begin e-recycling outdated electronic equipment that has been stored at the warehouse for years. Not only will this put the Board in a better position for the upcoming move, but allow Ms. Aspera to learn how the Board can reduce waste in the future.

B. Public Information Director's Report

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

We continue to prepare statements and materials ahead of the City budget hearing, now scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>.

We have some messages and media planned ahead of National Voter Registration Day on September 28<sup>th</sup> to get the word out and to work with our partners.

Mr. Bever looks forward to meeting with additional staff soon to map out plans for the next canvass mailing ahead of the 2022 elections.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Nothing new to report.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday stated that there is nothing new to report. Preventive maintenance is done, and we are on schedule.
- C. Voting Equipment: Nothing new to report.
- D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

Last week Mr. Lasker reached out to the office of State Senator Celina Villanueva. Senator Villanueva is the chief sponsor of the bill (that we discussed last meeting) on allowing non-citizens to vote in the school board elections. Mr. Lasker waiting to hear back. Mr. Lasker is looking forward continuing the conversation with members of the House Ethics & Election Committee, and the House Election Administration and Ballot Access subcommittee.

We will monitor developments on things during the Veto Session which begins October 19<sup>th</sup>.

VII. New Business

- A. Approval of a professional services agreement with Lawrence Hanson for decennial redistricting consulting services:

Executive Director Holiday stated that Mr. Hanson was chosen from a list of candidates who had applied.

Mr. Holiday called upon Assistant Manager Christopher Tomecek to provide more details to the Board on Mr. Hanson.

Mr. Tomecek reported that he was part of the interview panel along with Mike Czech of the Board's Districts and Boundaries Department and Al Chase of the Board's Information Technologies Department. The panel believes that Mr. Hanson is the best and most qualified candidate to help us with the upcoming redistricting. Mr. Hanson has over 20 years of GIS experience in the public and private sector. Mr. Hanson is very knowledgeable in all the GIS formats that the Board staff would be needing to complete this upcoming redistricting.

Commissioner Kresse thanked Mr. Holiday and everyone who worked on this because this is the time of the decade when people with these qualifications are in high demand. Commissioner Kresse thinks that we landed a really good choice.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Lawrence Hanson for decennial redistricting consulting services. The Chair added that that agreement would be in the amount of \$100 per hour capped at \$100,000 over the one-year term and she seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

Mr. Lasker confirmed to the Board that the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) agrees with our analysis that there is erroneous omission in the legislation for next year's elections. The ISBE legal staff and Legislative Director are seeking a remedy on this legislative error. The Chair asked Mr. Lasker to explain the erroneous omission. Mr. Lasker explained that in amending the Election Code for the new dates for 2022 elections the legislation apparently left out filing dates for County candidates.

Later this week Mr. Lasker will attend the Annual Conference of the Association of Election Commission Officials of Illinois (AECOI) with Executive Director Holiday and Ms. Lewicki of the Board's Community Services Division. The AECOI conference will be virtual for the second year in a row, but there's a full agenda and there will be speakers attending from around the State, the ISBE and others.

IX. Financial Report: None

X. Public Comment: There were no requests for Public Comment.

XI. Executive Session: None

At this time the Chair stated pursuant to the provisions of subsection 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7(e)) she is declaring that the following factors related to the Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing spread of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 make it impractical and imprudent to hold the next Board meeting in person, and that the September 28, 2021 meeting will be held by video conference. Further, she finds that on September 3, 2021, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order #2021-22, which is COVID-19 Executive Order No. 88, in which he issued a statewide disaster declaration to be in effect for 30 days thereafter.

In addition to the statewide COVID-19 statistics and concerns expressed in the Governor's declaration, she finds that the following local concerns in and around the City of Chicago further require the Board to hold its next meeting by videoconference:

- Weekly COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in Chicago remain very high, with new cases currently averaging 422 per day and new hospitalizations averaging 34 per day, also
- The vast majority of Chicago's intensive care beds are occupied, with only 16% of beds available, and
- The vast majority of Chicago's hospital beds for patients that need acute care are occupied, with only 18% of beds available.

Accordingly, to best protect our staff and the people of Chicago, the Chair declares that the next Board meeting, set for September 28, 2021, will be held by video conference only, along with all Board meetings for the indefinite future until a new declaration is released.

Commissioner Kresse commented that under the law, that as Chair, Commissioner Hernandez has the exclusive power to make such a finding. Further, Commissioner Kresse stated that he totally agrees with this finding. Commissioner Kresse also commented that

we are getting good at video conferencing. Commissioner Kresse noted that while this meeting, and previous meetings, were open to the public, we have had no members of the public joining us in person, but have had full public participation via the videoconference, thus following the guidelines, and in the spirit of openness and transparency. Commissioner Kresse reiterated his support for the Chair's declaration.

The Chair thanked Commissioner Kresse and said that hopefully soon we will all see each other in person, but until then, as she said, she wants to protect everyone – not only those who work at the Board but also those who regularly come in and observe our meetings. So, for everyone involved she thinks this is the best

- XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary