Minutes of the Chicago Cook Workforce Investment Board– 6/23/20


Co-chair George Wright called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Welcome all board members to our first Zoom board meeting. I appreciate your indulgence. Just a couple of housekeeping reminders, please mute your line when the presentations are happening as a reminder to myself because I tend to forget that and please accommodate and help us move the meeting along. Once again, thanks for coming, and I'm sure we'll be joined at some point with the Co-chair Jacki Robinson-Ivy. Until that time, I'll take the rudder and we'll try to keep ourselves on schedule. And thanking you in advance for your participation, your questions, and your candor. The first order of business we have is the approval of the December minutes. If there are no questions or discussions, I will entertain a motion to approve.

MS. TEITELBAUM: So moved. MR. HECKTMAN: Adam Hecktman MS. McDonough: Pam McDonough, second. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: It's been moved and Adam and Pam seconds. All in favor say aye. ("Aye" response.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All opposed same sign. (Brief pause.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The motion carries. The minutes are approved.

Moving right along, we have Karin Norington-Reaves, CEO, and her quarterly update. So the floor is yours, Karin.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. Good morning, everyone. It's good to see some of you and to hear others. Marisa is going to launch my presentation. Typically, I am reading to you or speaking contemporaneously from my written report. Today I am going to do an actual visual report given the circumstances. You should have received this in your materials. You're welcome to follow along. I'm going to move about. Marisa, go ahead and advance the slide, please. This last quarter for you as well as for us has been quite interesting and quite different from anything any of us have ever experienced. I want to talk a bit today about our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, what we as an organization have been doing over the past quarter, and then a little bit about what we expect the future to look like. One of the things that all of you well know is the pandemic has laid bare much of the prior existing disparities within Chicago and Cook County. This is just a look, a snapshot, of the changes that have happened between 1970 and 2010 that really reflects what's happened with the pandemic and where we are as an organization and what we're going to have to be trying to tackle. Our city has moved from a predominately middle income and perhaps mix of low income to a predominately very low income and of very high-income individuals. Next slide.

What that means for us in the context of workforce development and unemployment is that we have a disproportionate representation of black and brown folks on the higher end of unemployment and that means a significant draw on our system. Next slide. With the pandemic, as you know, there have been a significant number of layoffs and reductions in force whether
temporary or permanent, and what we anticipate is what many of our agencies are calling a tsunami of unemployed individuals. Next slide.

What we've seen is a disproportionate impact in the retail sector, accommodations, food services. You can see here where the sector specific impact has been throughout Cook County. It also tracks with the disproportionate number of black and brown people who have either contracted the illness or died from it because they're in predominantly public-facing positions, so service industry positions that create higher contact with the disease. We can also look at this and think of the inverse of it in terms of where do we need to focus our energies and how -- well, the inverse represents what's going to be coming back on track first and last with respect to the economy, but then also where do we need to focus our industry -- our energies in getting people trained up for the industries that have stability that will survive pandemics and other economic disasters and fallouts, and then also just recognizing the type of people who are going to be coming in seeking our services. Next slide.

This just shows a comparison of Cook County versus the nation in terms of reductions in force in the local economy. Where we took the greatest hit nationally was in accommodations/food services, but then if you look in Cook County we had an even greater impact here locally than we did on our national scene. Next slide. What's been our response, so over the past quarter we have been very hard at work. Our team immediately pivoted to virtualization. For our office we had already rolled out laptops for everyone. Several months prior we had already set up the Microsoft Teams platform for us to work remotely. We had already created SharePoint. We had already added SharePoint to our system. We had already put in -- essentially put everything in the Cloud in terms of access to our files so we were very well poised to work remotely. And then our delegate agencies also were able to shift on a dime as well as our American Job Centers. We launched remote enrollment and eligibility processes for our entire system that launched on April 17th. It took us about four weeks to build out a new module in our Career Connect data system in order to enable virtual enrollment.

We also worked in partnership with the State to create virtual job fairs, and then we have received some additional funding in support of online video orientation and a host of other resources to build out our job seeker interface within our Career Correct system and platform. We're also building out our help desk. We've got a very robust help desk for our agencies that's behind the scenes, but now we're building out that public interfacing piece and we're focused on trauma care and support for our frontline staff. What we know is many of the people who will be coming to see us are dealing with not only the trauma of COVID-19- but also the civil unrest and the fight for racial justice that's happening across this country, and so what we've seen is that our staffers are not immune to any of this. Our staffers are the ones who have to pour into and support the public that will be coming into us at maximum frustration, at the height of anxiety, and the height of desperation and in order for us to give back to others we have got to give to ourselves. We are working to make sure that our frontline staff has the support that they need in order to be effective in providing services. The other thing that we're working on is a young adult workforce development portal, which is launching on July 6th, in partnership with Roadtrip Nation. We also are receiving support from the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance and they will have a link on the page to their career pathways initiative. Next slide. This is an example from the portal -- the young adult portal that is going to focus on virtual job shadowing. As we go into the summer months and we think about the services that are not going to be available to our young people we wanted to make sure that we built out something that would
allow them to access workspace learning, develop skills around informational interviewing. This is an entire virtual platform environment that will allow them to really explore careers, but in a safe way that does not put them at risk of contracting the virus. The work-based learning curriculum is a five-module curriculum that will allow for their growth and development. Next.

MR. ORTEGA: Karin, quick question. For that curriculum do you need to be enrolled in WIOA or is this open to the -- MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: No. This will be open to the public. This will be fully open to the public, but we will work with our career coaches who are working with young people to help them utilize the tools as effectively as possible by helping them through it. And I'm happy to just show an example, but I want to be respectful of the time. Perhaps towards the end of the meeting, Mr. Chair, if we have more time I'm happy to go into the link and show everyone the beta site. MR. ORTEGA: Thank you.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Sure. Next slide. There is a belief that, you know, searches were going to stop for us because we were going virtual and I want to lift up Opportunity Works, our youth program that we developed at the request of the President Preckwinkle, that has actually continued during the pandemic. Some of our young people have been placed in permanent employment during the pandemic. We are just a couple of young folks away from being able to say that we've served a thousand in this program. We are at 998 that have been served and 894 that have been placed in permanent employment, which is an 89 percent placement rate which is practically unheard of in the context of workforce development. We engaged another 118 youth during -- from the time that the stay-at-home order took place. I'm happy to also report that we just went before the Cook County Board of Commissioners and got a three-year agreement to continue this initiative at a million dollars a year in support from the County. We look forward to expanding the footprint here.

I'm going to skip to the next slide. You all have this information and you can read further what we've done in response to COVID-19- and our youth programming. The other piece is the role that we've been playing with respect to the rebuilding and recovery post pandemic. I mentioned the virtualization of our services, and I want to assure this body that individuals have still had access to training dollars. We've continued to see enrollment. Many of the training providers took their programs virtual where it was possible. We have also had quite a bit of outreach into the community. We've created a work now page on our website that is called Rehiring Now, but if you were to key in the website it would be chicookworks.org/worknow and that page is showing all the employers that were continuing to hire -- that are still hiring now despite the pandemic.

At any given time we have 50 or 70 employers listed on that page that lifted up employment opportunities. Some of them had unique links connected to our page so that we could track the individuals who were placed from the page. We also have been doing a weekly segment on Real Razon (phonetic) on Monday mornings in their segment called Primera Hora, and we've had representatives of our staff there every week talking about a host of different issues. It's helped to increase our Spanish-speaking population and connection there and traffic to the website. We've also launched an 800 number in Spanish, English, Polish, and Mandarin in order to reach the public more broadly. We've also taken most of our covering online for just special workshops and training. In collaboration with AARP our Back To Work 50 Plus workshops have gone online as well as our digital literacy, or as I've been now told to call it a digital proficiency programming. It's been reaching roughly 600 people a month. I will tell you on the first and second days of June, however, we reached 200 people in just two days. So the
demand for this is continuing to grow. We've also been able to support a number of businesses, small and medium size, to the tune of $1.8 million that we are able to pass through from the State to local companies within the city and the county to help stem the transmission of COVID-19. And then we've had ten community-based organizations receiving over $4 million in humanitarian aid. These are funds that will be used to hire employees to support outreach and efforts within communities. In some instances it's around getting food to folks who are not able to get out of their homes and supporting a host of other direct services through community-based organizations, including the Greater Chicago Food Depository, South Shore Works, Northwest Housing Center, and Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation. Next slide.

This is just a snapshot of some of our employer engagement. As you can see it's been very robust. This doesn't reflect the 359 events that we've performed through March of this year reaching more than 26,000 people. This is simply just the employer side of the house. As you see we've had nearly a thousand employers posting jobs to our network with 1,700 unique titles representing more than 7,800 actual positions with those employers. With respect to COVID-19-in addition to the $1.8 million that I referenced earlier, there's also been the work that we do with respect to layoff notices and what we call rapid response which has impacted thousands of folks; but we have directly been notified of over 100 layoff notices as well as roughly 18,000 people impacted and that was through March. Next slide.

I'm going to talk very briefly about our WIOA funding. We have received 2.6-million-dollar reduction in funds this year. Let me just remind all our board members that our funding is based on a federal formula and that formula is retrospective, so this is looking at last year's employment data, not at the current circumstances nationally or locally. We received a 2.3-million-dollar reduction in our dislocated worker fund. We expect to compensate for that by, No.1, Dislocated Worker funds from DCEO and our collaboration with the County regarding CARES Act dollars that can be used for dislocated workers. We also have a bid on the City's contact tracing project, and we are working with the County to formalize an agreement with respect to their contact tracing project as well. So those are additional dollars that will be able to support some of the work that we're doing. Next slide.

Our controller is going to go into greater detail about the budget, but just a bird's eye view it's roughly $72 million for this upcoming year. Well, that was $72 million as of last week when this slide was created, but since then we just received another 4 million and we have applied for another three or so from the State and we have another 4-million-dollar grant request pending. This pot will grow significantly by the time, honestly, that you vote on the formal final budget in September and certainly by this time next year we expect that those coffers will increase significantly. You can end the slide.

The only thing I wanted to lift up directly is the issue of racial equity and digital equity. The civil unrest -- the national civil unrest in the wake of George Floyd's murder has really been obviously a flashpoint across the country, but also a time of reflection for us as an organization. And one the things that became very clear to me is that racial equity is a workforce development issue. We know that discrimination continues to exist across the country. We also see it in the context of employment, but we also see it with respect to the overrepresentation of black and brown people in service industry and high contact jobs. We also see it in the underrepresentation in other sectors such as information technology or TDL, and so what we recognize is that much of our programming is specifically focused on creating more options for black and brown people in the Chicago South and West Side. What we recognize is that much
of our programming is already very clearly about creating a diverse talent supply chain for the local employers, but what we've not been is explicit about that. We've not been explicit about racial equity as a workforce development issue. And certainly, the current climate calls for it, but we also recognize the fact that we are a majority-minority. Seventy-six percent of our staff is black, brown, Asian, or biracial. Eighty percent of the people that we serve are black/brown people, and we're focused on those communities that are in greatest need in the city of Chicago and those are black and brown communities and so it is high time that we are explicit and specific and forward and intentional about calling out that which we already are doing. So I wanted to lift that up for you.

The second thing is the issue around digital equity, and so digital equity for us is -- covers a number of things. Number 1, you have got to have broadband access, and not just any old broadband access but high-speed broadband access. We've also got to have devices not in every household but in every person's hand, right, because we are educating ourselves whether we are advancing our career or elementary education or post-secondary education or whether we are working we've got to have access to a device from which to work. And in order to use that device, in order to access that broadband we actually have to have some skills, and so it's a three-legged stool. You have got to have the access, the device, and then the skills with which to use both and so for us digital equity is indeed a workforce development issue. You can't even apply for a job without doing so online, which means you've got to have the skills to access it and you've got to have the capacity to access it. And so those are two major issues that you will be hearing more from us on, and I just wanted to lift that up and bring that to the surface that those are things that we think are critical in both isolation and combined, frankly, are what workforce development issues that we as an organization and that we as a city and county have to tackle. So, Mr. Chair, that concludes my remarks. I'm happy to field any additional questions.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Karin. Any questions for the CEO's quarterly report and update? DR. JENKINS: George, this is Sylvia. I don't have any questions, but I'd just like to comment and commend Karin for her statements regarding a workforce development issue. It's not only a workforce development issue, but it's also in higher ed. we're dealing -- in education space we're dealing with that same issue. When we had to move everything remotely and online it was very evident that the students who were standing in line who didn't even have a laptop or an iPad at home were the ones that probably wouldn't do that well with online instruction. We have students who are trying to do online instruction using their cell phone. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Right. DR. JENKINS: There is a large gap across the board of inequities that exist. And workforce development, yes, the people could get better jobs that would provide better income then they would have better technology to be able to advance themselves. I just wanted to commend Karin for making that statement. We are dealing with the same thing on the higher ed. platform. So thank you. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Thank you, Dr. Jenkins. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Dr. Jenkins, and great comments. Anybody else?

MS. TEITELBAUM: Yes. Karen Teitelbaum. I just wanted to -- Again not a question, but kudos to Karin and the entire team. I thought that this was a great presentation and I thought that the results that you're getting in Opportunity Works is pretty -- pretty astounding. And, you know, maybe at some point we can dig in a little bit -- more deeply on what can we as a board do to help advance what you're doing; although, it's hard to imagine how we would accelerate anything more than those great results that you're getting, but I think that that particular focus --
I mean this is a real passion of mine given the communities that Sinai Health Systems serves and I realize how important it is to the vibrancy of the community and the safety of the community of these actions so if there’s anything that we can do as a board, you know, just let us know.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Thank you so much, Karen. Yeah. The biggest thing that the board can do is help us with growing the employer base that participates in Opportunity Works and provide internships to these young people. What happens is they give them internships and then they want to bring them on board. They want to hire these kids. In the first six months we thought we’d serve 200 in the first year. We served 200 in the first six months. We got -- We now have over 150 employers who are participating, and roughly about 70 or so of those are providing the internships because we offered employers a whole host -- a wide menu of options for engaging in the program, and so if we could get more employers to want to provide internships, more employers who could support the career exploration and growth of these young people I think we would see more employers hiring even more kids.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Karen. Any other comments/questions from the board? MR. COSGROVE: Yeah. This is Colin. I'm going to call it comment, slash, question, but I wonder about given this past weekend specifically when you -- and this is -- I'm new to this and it may have been covered in other meetings and so on, but I wonder about the -- you're talking about lifting up the work that's already being done and the idea that this workforce development really overcomes -- fights against racial injustice, you know, getting people into jobs, getting people into long-term careers. Workforce is so different across so many different levels of individuals' and companies' lives but specifically right now and just in the city of Chicago given this past weekend I was thinking about racial injustice -- I don't know -- and the digital divide is there a way in terms of lifting up in terms of the work being done to frame at least some portion of that as being an antiviolence component. I don't know the right way to even ask that question, but there's such a pandemic of violence in the city of Chicago and it's not going away, and I firmly believe the best way to stop it is with a job and that's not just to say anyway when people are gainfully employed and have workforce opportunities they're less likely to be in places that you simply don't want them to be in, and I don't know the resolution for that. I just wonder if there's a way to express that as part of what the Partnership does, and I'm always thinking how does that -- how do these intersect.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Yeah. I hear exactly what you're saying, Colin, and we've been having the same discussion now for eight years around employment as a violence reduction tool. Right? I mean I think that's really what you’re saying, and we've been engaged in this conversation. This weekend is just -- it's heartbreaking to me. It's heartbreaking to me as a resident of the South Side. It's heartbreaking to me as a mother of a black, young man. Right? We -- It seems -- You know, I say often that amount of funding that we have is finite, but the need is infinite. And it is just going to take a collective sea change to really make a difference here. You know, the difference that we make is one person at a time and there's only but so many people that we can serve, but I do think that part of a larger, collective, all-hands-on-deck effort around utilizing employment as a violence reduction tool is critical. The challenge becomes how do we get more employers engaged who see their role and the responsibility in that because we can train people until the cows come home, but training in a vacuum, training without a legitimate confirmed connection to permanent full-time employment on the back end of that is the fool's errand and it's an errand that much of workforce development across this
country has been engaged in, and we can ill afford to do that. We have got to be able to commit to young people hope and that hope looks like an actual opportunity, not just the promise of something that we then don't deliver on. And so I think we have to be part of a larger, collective, all-hands-on-deck effort.

We received a letter from the Mayor’s Office, from the West Side black-elected officials asking for -- asking the mayor to, you know, make sure that everybody across the city is focused on jobs for 16- to 24-year-olds. We can't just manufacture jobs out of whole cloth. We've got to have employers at the table. We've got to be feeding a demand, and I think that it's -- like I said it's just going to be -- it's going to be a collective, all-hands-on-deck piece. In terms of the marketing of our work as -- you know, as a violence reduction answer and as a racial equity issue, yes, I think from a communications perspective we can do that, but I want to make sure that that is backed up with substance for sure.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you. Thanks, Colin, for that question and comment. I think the next item on the agenda as I'm looking at it is the Chairman Of The Finance Committee Charles Smith will give us his update -- or that committee's update supported by Wingman, our controller. So, Charles, the floor is yours. MR. SMITH: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Karin, for your leadership. You know I applaud the work you guys have been doing and then when you look at the financials you really get to see the work and what's gone into it. And make no mistake about it, there are organizations that have been really struggling to get through this period of time so what you and your team have done to keep this train moving, and I actually sort of increase it to a certain extent, that is tremendous. So I do want to applaud you and your team and George and Jacki your guys' leadership. Before we sort of dig into the financials, I'm just going to give a couple of updates and then I'll pass it over.

So the Partnership is now offering ACH payments. I know we had a couple questions in the past about efficiency and making sure that, you know, checks are processed and stuff like that. Especially with COVID-19 some of the challenges the mail hasn't actually been operating as smoothly as it was before. So now we're in a position of processing quicker and more efficiently. We also -- Our audit was completed and there were no findings so that is always good as an organization that serves multiple entities. Our tax returns are required to be filed by July 15th, and our fiscal team is working with Mitchell Titus Tax Services to do the tax returns, but I just also before I give it to Wing want to talk about what Karin talked about. As an African American male in this city and in this country there are extreme challenges, but I think the diversity that you talked about, Karin, in terms of your team is amazing. And also the diversity of the vendors that you choose in regards to do business with, in regards into the WIOA distribution I want to applaud you on that. So with that being said, I will hand it over to Wing who can kind of discuss our budget for next year and where we are on the third quarter of this fiscal year.

MS. HO: Thank you, Charles. Good morning, all. I hope you all are staying well. This is Wingman Ho, controller of the Partnership. Today I will be presenting the financials as of March 2020. Let's start with the fiscal 2021 preliminary budget. Thank you. Fiscal Year refers to months budgeted financials starting July to June 2020. Please note that this is a preliminary budget of FY2021. As Karin discussed the final budget will be presented in the September board meeting. Note 1, revenue and expenses of both budgeted as 72 million in Fiscal Year 2021. It is a break-even budget assuming we're able to raise money for unrestricted dollar. As you know, the Partnership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Basically we spend a dollar on the grant, we earn a dollar. Revenue and expenses are supposed to be awash. In the last
couple years we have operated surplus mainly due to the Walmart Service Income -- $290,000, from the grant -- which improved our bottom line after netting all the operating expenses. Revenue and expenses of both budgeted as 72 million. Eighty-four percent funding are WIOA related. Total budgeted revenue is 1.65 million more compared to last fiscal year. There are a lot of things happening as a result of the 1.6 million increase in revenue. First of all, although the Walmart grant ended in July '19, but we have new grants such as CTA and re-entry grant. Note 2, we received 2 million less from WIOA compared to last year, but we received 930,000 for rapid response 1E for COVID-19-related. Also, we received an extra million for ITA, and there are incumbent worker more than $1 million that, you know, we have not spent down in the current fiscal year that will be carried into the next year. So all of these expenses pretty much offset the 2 million WIOA reduction, and then we got the 930,000 extra money for the rapid response and that explains the budget revenue that we have compared with last year. Are there any questions on the preliminary budget? (Brief pause.) MS. HO: Okay. Once again, this -- we will prepare the final budget with all the updates because we have some new grants pending and the new -- the final budget will be prepared and presented in the September board meeting again. Next slide, please. Thank you.

So this is the Fiscal Year 2020 budget-to-actual slide. Fiscal Year 2020 refers to 9 months financials starting July 2019 to June 2020. This slide here is referencing like nine months' financials as of March 2020. The third column, year-to-date actuals, refers to the actual revenue and expenses for nine months' financials. Purple Note 1, nine months of FY2020 has total revenue as of March 2020 in the amount of 44.5 million. Purple Note 2, Fiscal Year 2020 has total expenses of 44.685 million. Note 3, expenses are more than revenue by 183,000. This over-expenditure is mainly contributing to the Walmart-funded grant due to timing. As we discussed in the previous board meeting before over the whole life of this Walmart-funded grant there is no loss. The Walmart service income of 290,000 was fully earned in the last couple of years. Service income improved the operating net in the previous fiscal years, and operating net was recorded as unrestricted net assets in the balance sheet after we closed each fiscal year. Next slide, please.

Moving on to the financial statements, statement of activities. We received 1.4 million from different funding streams as of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2020. Note 1, government and contract revenues 725,000 received from Cook County for Opportunity Works program. Note 2, corporate and foundation revenue 674,000 coming from Chicago Workforce Funder Alliance 211,000; Union Pacific Foundation 100,000 for Opportunity Works program; AARP 243,000 for Back To Work 50 Plus program; Blue Cross Blue Shield 50,000 for Chatham; and Motorola 25,000 for Chicago Codes; and Uber $35,000. Note 3, 1.5 million worth of net assets were being released from restrictions as of the third quarter of 2019. The biggest contributor of this 1.5 million is no longer Walmart anymore; it is Opportunity Works, slightly over more than 1 million. And we also released the net assets from restriction for the following grants -- I'll just name a few big ones here -- Chicago Codes 295,000; AARP 198,000 for Back To Work 50 Plus program; Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance for Career Connect 81,000. Note 4, the Partnership has total expenses of 44.7 million expenses incurred. Note 5, 452,000 decrease in net assets is the net result of the decrease in unrestricted without donor restriction, net assets and restricted revenue of temporarily restricted assets with donor restriction. The Partnership has total net assets in the amount of 2.675 million as of March 31st 2020. Any questions on this slide, statement of activities? (Brief pause.) MS. HO: All right. Next slide, please.
Let's talk about the statement of financial position. Note 1, the Partnership has 13.751 million of total current assets of as of March 31st, 2020, including 3.4 million worth of cash and cash equivalents. The declining cash and short-term investments is mainly due to the spending down of the Walmart Foundation grant and Opportunity Works grant. Note 2, the total net assets as of March 31st, 2020 is 2.675 million. Next slide, please. Thank you.

The last slide of financial statements is statement of cash flow. Note 1, net assets decreased by 452,000 as of March 2020 as we discussed already in the statement of activities. It is the net result of the unrestricted operating net of 183,000, and the decrease of 269,000 of the temporarily restricted assets. Note 2, Partnership possessed 3.4 million cash and cash equivalents as of March 2020. That's all I have on the financials. Are there any questions on the financial statements? (Brief pause.)

MS. TEITELBAUM: Hi, it's Karen Teitelbaum. I just have a question back on the preliminary look at the budget. Where do you see -- thank you -- where do you see the biggest risk area? MS. HO: The biggest risk area I would say because percent of our funding of WIOA related and then so we already got -- we already have awarded the amount -- the grant award is already awarded or is in progress so I would think all of that 84 percent we are fine; and then for the non-WIOA related grant we also have a grant being awarded so I think the exposure is limited for the high risk area, which is some operating expenses we have to raise dollars in order to offset that. So from the financial perspective I think our exposure is very limited, which is limited to the operating expenses. So it would be nice if we can raise some unrestricted dollars to offset our operating expenses in the upcoming year. MS. TEITELBAUM: Okay. Thank you. MS. HO: Thank you.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any more questions for either Charles or Wingman? MR. SMITH: Can I ask something, Chairman, real fast? CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Sure. MR. SMITH: Thank you. One of the things -- First of all, thank you, Wing. One of the things that we talked about as well was the plan in regards to moving forward in regard to raising unrestricted funds, as Wing just intimated, there is an opportunity here in several different areas. Maybe partnerships. Maybe fundraisers, virtual as they may be, but that is something that we need to put our heads together on. I know last year we started to hit on some of the fundraising stuff so I'm sure in the near future that is something that will be discussed with the board if that's okay with the chairs. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Great suggestion. Thanks, Charles. Okay. We can move on. I think I looked at my attendance list. Did our Co-Chair Jacki Robinson-Ivy join us or was that a mirage? MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: She is on, Mr. Chair. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Maybe it was. She's on. She's probably talking on mute. Okay. Let's move on. CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Mr. Chair, I was trying to unmute. My apologies.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: No worries. Welcome. Let's move on. We're right on time. Let's go to youth programs and funding update. This report will be given by Monica Haslips, our chair for the youth committee. So, Monica, the floor is yours. Go ahead. MS. HASLIP: Good morning. Thank you, Chair. And, first, I just want to thank Karin and her team again for all the hard work that they're doing, and I can't express how supportive I am of the work that you want to do around racial equity and digital equity because I think that is a priority. So during our meeting we heard both from Karin and Jasmine Williams, and Karin talked already about Opportunity Works as well as Roadtrip Nation, but I hope that at the end of the call we have enough time for Karin to give us a little bit of a review of the beta site, which is pretty exciting. So I'm looking forward to doing that if we get a chance to do that today, but the only other sort of programming
opportunity that we didn't highlight during her report was the mayor's My Chi, My Future initiative which was sort of created by the first lady to really provide support to youth over the summer and beyond. So that program is scheduled to be available to you starting now particularly for summer opportunities.

The committee members also discussed really the issue of around how the staff is being affected by the stress and anxiety due to the, you know, work that they’re doing around COVID-19, and I also want to sort of highlight in relationship to that youth are also, you know, experiencing the same kind of trauma so those are areas that we want to focus on. I unfortunately lost another one of my students over the weekend, so, you know, this is a real thing that we all have to be totally committed to because in addition to all the challenges around COVID-19 we also have -- excuse me -- the issues that are related to the violence so any and everything that we can do to move this work forward in providing opportunities to them I think that should be a priority for us.

The committee also sort of talked a bit about some of the stuff that we’re doing with the WIOA youth funding recommendations. Amy did a presentation on those recommendations. The committee voted to approve the recommendations, and we'll move those forward today. And the Partnership received $17,444,655 in WIOA youth funds for PY2020. This represents a decrease of $200,462 from last program year. The Partnership recommends spending all WIOA youth grant for an additional year, level funding for the agencies, and increase all American Job Center programs that are previously funded at 102,000. The ITAs and OJTs the Partnership anticipates serving approximately 425 to 475 with ITAs in the next program year. This proposed reserved amount includes the increase of over 600,000 in ITA funds compared to PY19, an additional 75 to 100 youth who will receive the ITAs. Customer impact is estimated as served in the proposed plan for PY2020. The Partnership anticipates serving 3,000 to 3,200 at-risk youth with WIOA services throughout Cook County.

The COVID-19 shutdown resulted in an impact in the enrollment for the last quarter, and the final focus on work-based learning and paid experiences under WIOA may also contribute to the decrease in the total amount of youth served in this program. I have Amy and Jasmine available to, of course, answer any additional questions that you may have in relationship to the youth committee report. (Brief pause.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All right. Thank you. MS. McDONOUGH: This is Pam. I have a question. I would go to No. 7 on your funding list in terms of recommendations, and I'm just curious why toward the end of the columns there's not applicable for, you know, half the columns. I mean they’re recommended for continued funding, but I don’t know why no one else has not applicable. Maybe there’s something to it in the way that their program is designed. I'm wondering what that is.

MS. SANTACATERINA: Hi. I can answer that. For our youth program -- This is Amy Santacaterina. For our youth programs we did an RFP last that had contracts starting -- we did that RFP last year which brought in some new agencies with contracts starting January of 2019, and as many of you know our performance measures are sort of a longitudinal measure so they really are measuring activities after people exit. They follow along after people exit the program so we will place not applicable when what we are measuring does not have proficient volume. Several of the new agencies coming on board really didn't have the opportunity to have youth go through the program, exit, and then follow activity second quarter after exit or indefinitely not fourth quarter after exit. So those -- whatever you see as not applicable is because what we are measuring in terms of percentage didn't have a sufficient number of -- to assess that agency.
Anything less than ten in the measurement we really don't think that's fair to penalize somebody for just for low volume. We have next year's -- MS. MC DONOUGH: What about placement? MS. SANTACATE RINA: -- for those youth agencies you will see -- particularly we'll start to see more people -- more numbers of people going through the program where we'll be able to measure their effect. MS. Mc DONOUGH: This isn't in-school youth, correct? MS. SANTACATERINA: Yes, there was the in-school program. They were the ones that you're referring to was an in-school youth program compared to the others on that sheet. MS. McDONOUGH: Okay. MS. SANTACATERINA: So others on that sheet were returning youth programs at the volume because they've been doing this program since 2012 so they have people constantly going through and being measured and you have the follow-along activity. MS. Mc DONOUGH: All right. Thank you. MS. SANTACATERINA: Sure. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Pam. Any other questions from the board? (Brief pause.) CO-

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So, Marisa, you'll have to remind me as I go through the agenda which of these programs or initiatives require a vote that we talked about this early on. So is this particular program requiring that the board vote? MS. LEWIS: It is, but if we wanted to move ahead to the next agenda item we can vote on the recommendations as a whole because we can present sort of all the recommendations to the board at once. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Let's bifurcate it. MS. LEWIS: Okay. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So, Monica, if you could read and/or specifically articulate what the motion would be since we are on a Zoom call and then I'll ask for a motion and then a second and then we can commence with a vote. Is that something, Monica, you would be able to do, or Amy or ... MS. HASLIP: Yes. I should be able to do that. We'd like to make a motion to approve the WIOA youth funds for PY2020, the recommendations. DR. JENKINS: So moved. This is Sylvia Jenkins. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I have a movant. And a second -- do I have a second? MR. MONOCCHIO: Rich Monocchio. Second. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: It's been moved and second. All in favor say aye. ("Aye" response.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All opposed same sign. (Brief pause.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The motion carries. MS. LEWIS: We've got to do the roll call. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: And we need to have a roll call, that's right, with our new Open Meeting Act. So go ahead, Marisa, if you could do the roll call, please. MS. LEWIS: Okay. Adam Heckman? MR. HECKTMAN: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Alberto Ortega? MR. ORTEGA: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Charles Smith? MR. SMITH: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Sorry. I skipped Carrie. Did Carrie join? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: Colin Cosgrove? MR. COSGROVE: Yep. MS. LEWIS: Did Dan Lyonsmith join? MR. LYONSMITH: Yes, I did. MS. LEWIS: Oh, good. Did Don Finn join? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: Donovan Pepper? (Brief pause.) MR. PEPPER: Yes. Pepper, yes. MS. LEWIS: George Wright? Pepper, yes. Okay. George? CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Haven Allen? MR. ALLEN: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Jacki Robinson-Ivy? CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Aye. MS. LEWIS: Jennifer Foster? Jennifer is on. Okay. I'll come back. Juan Salgado -- I'm sorry. Was that Jennifer? MS. FOSTER: Yes, Jennifer. Uh-huh. MS. LEWIS: Sarah Lichtenstein for Juan Salgado? MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Karen Teitelbaum? MS. TEITELBAUM: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Liisa Stark -- Or did Lashana Jackson join? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: Liisa Stark? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: Okay. Did Mary Howard join? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: Michael Jacobson? MR. JACOBSON: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Monica Haslip? MS. HASLIP: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Pam McDonough? MS. Mc DONOUGH: Yes. MS. LEWIS: George Putnam for Ray Marchiori? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: George? Richard Monocchio? MR. MONOCCHIO: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Bob Reiter? MR. REITER: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Sylvia Jenkins? DR. JENKINS: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Xochitl Flores? (Brief pause.) MS. LEWIS: Okay. Do we have Liisa Stark?
She was here earlier. MS. STARK: Yes. I'm sorry. I couldn't get my thing off of mute. Yes, I'm here. MS. LEWIS: Okay. Great. And then do we have George Putnam? MS. CAISON: George may have dropped off, but this is Crystal Caison for George and Ray. MS. LEWIS: Okay. MS. CAISON: Okay. Thank you. MS. LEWIS: Do you vote, Crystal, or -- MS. CAISON: Yes. MS. LEWIS: Okay. That is everyone. Thank you.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Marisa. So the next item on our agenda is the 2020 WIOA funding recommendations, training provider recertifications, and the Chatham procurement update. So, Pam and Amy, I assume you are taking the lead on this. The floor is yours. MS. MCDONOUGH: Thanks. As you know from the financial presentation our dislocated workers funding was reduced by $2.4 million, which is about a 13 percent reduction, but we're suggesting that we move -- it sounds counterintuitive, but we're asking to move 400,000 of dislocated funding to adult funding to address the low income adults and then we'll make up that funding through additional funds through 1E and the national emergency grant to serve the needs of dislocated workers. This allows us to maintain service levels with our delegate agencies. We also recommend level funding for the American Job Centers, both adult and dislocated funding streams. Amy shared our recommendations for training -- Career Pathway training agencies and delegate agencies.

We're currently reviewing proposals in response to our solicitation for sector centers and a One Stop operator and we'll address the recommendations with a special vote. We also conducted a solicitation for a WIOA provider to be located at the Chatham Center. The Partnership recommends funding for the award winner of 230,000 in adult funds and 230,000 in dislocated worker funds for the July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2020. With the budget as proposed we will be serving 3200 adults and 3,000 dislocated workers. And we move the -- move these recommendations to the full board. I don't know if we need a specific vote on the moving of the 400,000. Maybe somebody could help me there because we don't have a final budget so ... MS. SANTACATERINA: Yes. I believe we do need -- MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: We have to -- Sorry, Amy. Go ahead. MS. SANTACATERINA: This is Amy. Yes, I believe we do need a vote on the transfer of money and then the regular recommendations. You might be able to do it all in one. I'm not sure about that. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Pam, if I could just join in, we do actually have to have a formal vote when we're doing the transfer because it goes in as part of a modification that we --

MS. MCDONOUGH: Yeah. So we'd entertain a motion to approve transferring 400,000 of dislocated worker funding to adult funding. I guess I can make the motion. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Pam, could you read the motion once again so that -- MS. MCDONOUGH: Sure. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: -- we can then entertain a motion and second? MS. MCDONOUGH: Yeah. I move that we approve transferring 400,000 of dislocated worker funding to adult funding. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. Do I have a motion? MS. MCDONOUGH: So moved. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Second? MR. PEPPER: This is Donovan. Second. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All in favor say aye. ("Aye" response.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All opposed same sign. (Brief pause.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The motion carries. Marisa, can you do the roll call? MS. MCDONOUGH: Do you need a roll call? MS. LEWIS: Yes. MS. MCDONOUGH: Yes. Okay.

MS. LEWIS: So I put this in the comments but just so everybody knows -- I know George mentioned it briefly -- but the Open Meeting Act if we're doing it virtually it requires that we do this roll call vote so we have to do it every time. Okay. Adam Heckman? MR. HECKTMAN:


MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: I'm sorry to interrupt, Mr. Chair, I just want to lift up that the Chatham Center why this is coming up now. As you all know this has been a project for -- going on six years now. We are 99 percent complete. We actually have keys in our hot, little hands and we are ready to get a service provider in there to get started. Our furniture is being moved in in the next couple of weeks and they're finishing the punch list items this week. So I just wanted to announce that. We'll do a virtual open house and certainly once we have the
opportunity to gather -- physically to gather we'll invite everyone in. CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: And, Pam, repeat the other –

MS. McDONOUGH: I think we need to approve the recommended funding of 230,000 in adult funds and 230,000 in dislocated worker funds for the July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2021 for this elected WIOA provider for the new Chatham Center. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: That is correct. And you can name the provider, it's fine. MS. McDONOUGH: Oh, is it in there? I don't have it -- MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Okay. MS. McDONOUGH: I don't have it in front of me. You can go ahead. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: All right. KRA is who was selected. MS. McDONOUGH: Oh, yeah. That's right. Yeah.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So quick question, was there a rationale that determined the $230,000; that seems to be, you know, it would be like 200- or 250- or 300- I guess where did the 230,000 emanate from? MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Yeah. Amy, do you want to talk about that? So it's 230- across both and we're trying to to make it fit within our budget and also guesstimating the number of people that we thought could reasonably be started with that dollar amount. Amy, did you want to contribute to that? MS. SANTACATERINA: Yeah. Essentially what Karin said, we looked at our available funds. This is going to be a new initiative. Also at the Chatham Center we're expecting significant community outreach for this center so there are some other responsibilities associated with the center; not as large as an American Job Center, but we are looking at the volume of like a larger delegate agency for youth with significant outreach and interaction with the surrounding community. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: And, Pam or Amy, remind me again what those numbers were in terms of number of people served in both of those lanes. MS. McDONOUGH: Under the budget we're anticipating serving not for that specific center but in total 4,200 adults and 3,000 dislocated workers. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. Any other questions? (Brief pause.)


MS. McDONOUGH: I just want to make one comment. In all of our stuff we've seen over the years where we had to do plans to get people back on track but in this latest round the lowest score we had was 93 and most of them were 95 to 99, so I think people are doing a much better job of understanding the process and the paperwork and, you know, how to be responsive. I think that's a plus. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Pam. Okay. The next item on the agenda I think we'll bifurcate this. We've got public comments, and I do think we have some time based upon the time line we've allocated to go back to the youth programming and the beta. So let's open it up for public comments.

MS. LEWIS: Mr. Chair -- I'm sorry -- CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Sure. MS. LEWIS: -- Amy just reminded me in the comments that we do need to vote on one more thing. And I'm sorry we didn't highlight that. It's the training program recertification. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Who is presenting that? MS. LEWIS: Amy. You're on mute, Amy. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Amy, you need to unmute. MS. SANTACATERINA: There was an attachment that was sent to you all and approved through the service delivery committee training programs recommended for initial certification and then training programs recommended for continued certification. And it was passed through the committee. One just point of interest because it's topical I believe we have two programs that were recommended for initial certification from -- that is going to be providing training in contact tracing.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Amy, have you already presented it? I just -- Just for clarity's sake for my -- for me, have you already presented this? MS. SANTACATERINA: Through the service delivery committee, correct. CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Oh, okay. Thank you. MS. SANTACATERINA: Yes. So that's the other last voting item from service delivery committee. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Could you state the motion that this body is actually asked to move and second and vote on? MS. SANTACATERINA: As I'm not an official board member I'm not sure I can make a motion. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: You're not making the motion. You're just clarifying what the motion will be. MS. SANTACATERINA: Thank you. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: We'll ask a board member to make a motion and then second. MS. SANTACATERINA: Okay. The motion would be to approve the Partnership's recommendations for the training providers. Yes, to accept the recommendations on training provider certifications.

MS. McDONOUGH: All right. This is Pam. I'll make the motion that we accept the training provider recommendations for certification. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Pam. Do I have a second? MS. FOSTER: Second. This is Jennifer Foster. CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Jennifer. All in favor say aye. ("Aye" response,) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All opposed to same sign. (Brief pause.) CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Marisa, can you please do the roll call once again. Thank you. DR. JENKINS: I'm sorry. This is Sylvia Jenkins. I have to recuse myself. Moraine Valley is on this list -- okay? -- just to let you know. MS. LEWIS: Thank you. MS. TEITELBAUM: And, Marisa, this is Karen. I need to recuse myself as well because Sinai Urban Health Institute is in several different proposals. MS. LEWIS: Thank you. MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: This is Sarah Lichtenstein on behalf of Juan Salgado. The City Colleges needs to

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing no other actions that this board needs to vote on do we have public comments? (Brief pause.) MR. COSGROVE: This is Colin. I'm assuming I can speak in public comments as a board member. The question I wondered about, and maybe it may have been better to bring it up during the financial review, but I wonder given the, oh, let's just go with craziness over the last four months and the amount of impact in terms of workforce development and the people who are applying for support and so on does the Partnership have the staff it needs or is that something that needs to be addressed then. If that's not the purview of this board I apologize for that, but I'm curious if there needs to be some review of levels going forward for the next six to months because of just the sheer volume of how many people are in the Partnership to support its work.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Thank you, Colin, for that question. We are doing some restructuring. I am bringing on new positions. We have had -- We’ve had some cushion, if you will, on the personnel line items because of turnover or hiring lags. We actually lost three senior leaders in the past -- in the past four months actually -- or past -- yeah, since February. So February, March, and April we lost three senior leaders. One, as you know, our chief program officer joined a nonprofit, someone no longer on the staff, and then also our communications director was approached by President Preckwinkle and so we are filling those roles and then restructuring some others and, you know, working to build out at capacity. Also in the context of the frontline worker and system capacity we are in discussions with the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance which is committed to helping to support and build out the capacity of the Chicago workforce system and so we recognize that we’re going to need more staff, we’re going to need more career coaches in our workforce centers and support of our delegate agencies so that that discussion is underway. And I welcome the support of the board in helping us to raise additional unrestricted funds that could be used to help support building out staff capacity both for our agency directly as well as for the rest of our system. MR. COSGROVE: Thank you.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanks, Karin. Thanks, Colin. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: And, Mr. Chair, there's a public comment in the chat from Pyramid Partnership asking when will agencies be notified of funding decisions. Since this body has approved this we will get to work today actually on the notice letters that will go out and then the contracting will start. If we can't -- Typically as a matter of process we send out a letter notifying folks that they've been awarded and they can go ahead and begin acting and use the letter as their evidence of the intent to finalize a contract and then we finalize the contracts or do the contract modification for existing agencies. So those notices will begin to be generated internally beginning today. CO-
CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Great. Any other comments or questions from the public either in chat or real time? (Brief pause.)

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Hearing none. Karin, give me a sense, if you will, in terms of how long you would need to go over the beta of the youth portal? We've got a couple different options. We can adjourn the meeting and then people that can stay on that are interested in this can continue to listen in or if you think that it can be done within the next seven or -- six or seven minutes we can wait and adjourn the meeting after the beta has -- has -- after the demonstration is over. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Yep. It will take me maybe two or three minutes to do it.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Great.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Yep. Have at it. MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: So Marisa has got it and will share the screen.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you.

MS. NORINGTON-REAVES: Marisa, can you expand and then just scroll down? This is the -- I'm sorry. So that's the landing site. We particularly did that picture that has -- it's coming at the city skyline through the neighborhoods because we wanted there to be a reflection of the neighborhoods and not just downtown. Go ahead and scroll. This is a partnership between us and Roadtrip Nation. You'll see here this features the stories of Chicagoans. We actually did a focus group last week -- I think it was on Thursday -- with some of our youth to get their feedback and we gave the feedback to their site designers. For those of you who don't know Roadtrip Nation, Roadtrip Nation is an organization based in California that they're a group of documentarians and they focus on matters of workforce and so they have a whole work-based learning curriculum for youth and young adults, and this -- their youth focus piece is going to be featured throughout this page but it will specifically lift up Chicagoans. Keep going. So this part speaks to youth and shows them -- tells them the stories, people's journeys of how they got to where they are in their jobs, and again highlighting local folks. Keep going. And then there's a group of resources here as well.

So we will build out each of these resource tiles. You'll see Opportunity Works is lifted up, we've got skill trades in terms of our Construction Works initiative, places for them to learn more about workforce development services, and then who's hiring now as well and upcoming events. Keep going. Right here we're linked to the space for the Get Hired Illinois, which is a job site that they have, as well as Career Pathways that I mentioned that is funded through the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance. A really nifty site here that they can access through our portal. Keep going. Where Are The Jobs in Cook County that's our where the jobs report and so what we will be able here to feature are labor market information and then the Day In The Life is the virtual job shadowing. So day of the life of a baker, for example. We will actually lift up our high growth-high demand occupations so this one will be completely tied into our local labor market and will feature day-in-the-life opportunities within those high growth-high demand occupations, but in addition to that the young people will be able to explore any of the , snippets within their video library within Roadtrip Nation. All right. Scroll again. Thanks. This will teach about the virtual job shadowing and informational interviewing. So they will be featuring a group of young people who are talking to someone in a particular industry and gaining insights from them about what that job feels and looks like. Keep going. And then documentaries. So the young woman here is Yasmine Tolbert. She is one of our WIOA youth, she comes from family services, and she's featured in a documentary that is also launching nationwide in July. The Partnership is also lifted up. Yasmine and her colleagues she was a roadtripper; that's what they call the young people who do the cross country journey, and they interviewed me and a number of other folks,
the founder of (inaudible) and Per Scholas, a lot of different youth-facing organizations and so that documentary was featured. Scroll down. We have two other documentaries. First Gen this is the one for young people who are first generation college-goers, and Michelle Obama is featured in that one, and then Skill Power at the bottom which is youth who choose an additional path and go into skill trades. So that documentary will also be available on the page.

And then Share Your Road -- keep going down -- Share Your Road is the opportunity for the young people to do informational interviewing and then upload their actual interviews to the site. And at the bottom will feature some of our co-sponsors, Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance and Strada Education Network. All right. I'm done.


Note: Xochitl Flores noted her “aye” votes on all matters via email immediately following the meeting, noting microphone issues.