



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Real Estate

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JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

LAURIE MURPHY
Director

Auction Advisory Board
Minutes of Open Session

Meeting Date: December 16, 2025

Location: IDFPR - Division of Real Estate
555 West Monroe Street 5th Floor, Conference Room 5C5
Chicago, IL 60661
And
Via Interactive Video Conference
320 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Room 258
Springfield, IL 62786

Board Member(s) Present:
At Chicago Location: Nick Verma

Board Member(s) Present
at Springfield location: John Matthew Corso, Ben Ladage, James Rodney Laningham

Board Member Absent: Jessica Doerr-Berger, Otis Holley, Gwendolene Newton

Division Staff Present: Jeremy Reed – Deputy Director of the Division of Real Estate
Adrienne Levatino – Associate General Counsel
Nathaniel Chandler – Chief of Licensing and Education
Merle Shearer – Chief of Prosecutions
Hector Rodriguez – Chief of Investigations
Jenni Scheck – Staff Attorney
Kim Prickett – Operations Manager
Maria Lopez – Board Liaison
Susan Sigourney – Board Liaison

Guest(s) Present: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:16 a.m. by Chair Rodney Laningham. The Board members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

Approval of Minutes: Board members reviewed the Minutes of the Open Session of the October 28, 2025, Auction Board meeting. A motion was made by Ladage and seconded by Verma to approve those minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: There were no comments from members of the public.

Staff Reports:

Licensing and Education Report: The Licensing Report for activity conducted in November 2025 was presented and distributed.

Nathaniel Chandler reported that the Continuing Education (CE) renewal for Auction CE schools and CE courses is in progress at this time. An email reminder was sent to the schools informing them that the deadline to renew without a late fee is December 31, 2025.

Nathaniel Chandler also reported there are ten licensed online CE courses and eight licensed CE home study courses available for auctioneers.

Investigations: The Investigations Report through the month of November 2025 was presented and distributed.

Hector Rodriguez explained there were no new auction cases received in November and the current caseload in Investigations is 35 cases.

Hector Rodriguez informed the Board of plans to hire three new investigators.

Prosecutions: The Prosecutions Report through the month of November 2025 was presented and distributed.

Merle Shearer informed the Board that there are seven open and pending cases in Prosecutions and three cases were closed; one was closed administratively and two were closed with Consent Orders.

Formal Hearing Schedule: There are no Formal Hearings scheduled at this time.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: Adrienne Levatino explained that WebEx invites will no longer be sent to members of the Public. All information and a WebEx link will be available on the agenda posted on our website, effective January 1, 2026.

Closed Session: A motion was made at 11:24 a.m. by Corso and seconded by Ladage to enter Closed Session for the purposes set forth in Sections 2(c)(4),(15) and 21 of the Open Meetings Act. The Motion was passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Review of Minutes: The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the October 28, 2025, Auction Board meeting.

Deliberations: The Board deliberated on pending disciplinary matters.

Motion To Return to Open Session: A Motion was made at 11:30 a.m. by Corso and seconded by Verma to return to open session. The Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ladage and seconded by Corso to approve the minutes of the closed session of the October 28, 2025, Auction Board meeting as presented and to keep them closed. The motion carried unanimously.

Ratify Actions Taken in Closed Session: A motion was made by Corso and seconded by Ladage to ratify the recommendations made by the Board in Closed Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations: There were no deliberations for the Board to consider.

Orders: There was one Consent Order for the Board to consider. A Board member signed the Consent Order on behalf of the Board.

The Board received a report reflecting that the Director had taken final actions on two Consent Orders previously signed by the Board:
2019-01476 Jon R. Bloomberg
2023-01142 Brian Hart and Estate Sales with Hart, Inc.

Minutes Remain Closed: A motion was made by Ladage and seconded by Corso that the minutes of all closed sessions of the Auction Board remain and be kept closed. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made at 11:34 a.m. by Verma and seconded by Ladage to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.