



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: February 24, 2026

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: Jessica Doerr-Berger, John Matthew Corso, Ben Ladage, James Rodney
Laningham

Board Member Absent: Otis Holley and 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
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 11:06 a.m. by Chair Jessica Doerr-Berger. The Board members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

Approval of Minutes: Board members reviewed the Minutes of the Open Session of the December 16, 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 Reports through the months of December 2025 and January 2026 were presented and distributed.

Nathaniel Chandler presented the number of active auction licenses for each type of auction license for the months of December 2025 and January 2026:

- 440 Licensed Auctioneer - 208
- 441 Licensed Auctioneer – 721
- 444 Licensed Auction Firm - 197
- 445 Licensed Auction Continuing Education (CE) School – 4
- 446 Licensed Auction CE Course - 36

Nathaniel Chandler announced that the Department has received a Real Estate Auction Pre-Certification Course application. This course will be reviewed by the Real Estate Administration and Disciplinary Board.

Adrienne Levatino explained to the Board that she will be asking the Chiefs to read their board reports into the minutes as the reports will no longer be attached to the copy of the minutes each month.

Investigations: The Investigations Report through the month of December 2025 was presented by Hector Rodriguez:

- New Auction Cases Received – 2
- Cases Referred to Prosecutions – 1
- Cases Closed in Investigations – 1
- Current Auction Caseload - 35

The Investigations Report through the month of January 2026 was presented by Hector Rodriguez:

- New Auction Cases Received – 0
- Cases Referred to Prosecutions – 0
- Cases Closed in Investigations – 0
- Current Auction Caseload - 35

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

The 2025 Prosecutions Report through the month of December 2025 was presented by Merle Shearer:

- New Auction Cases – 2
- Pending/Open Cases – 6
- Cases Closed – 3
 - Case Closed with an Administrative Warning Letter – 1
 - Case Closed with a Consent Order – 1
 - Case Closed – tax case - 1

The 2026 Prosecutions Report through the month of January 2026 was presented by Merle Shearer:

- New Auction Cases – 1
- Pending/Open Cases – 6
- Cases Closed – 0

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 to the Board Members that they should confirm attendance upon receipt of board meeting invitations. To ensure a quorum, members must notify the liaison no later than 48 business hours in advance if they are unable to attend. This will allow sufficient time to postpone or reschedule meetings if necessary.

Susan Sigourney reminded the Board to complete the mandatory OneNet training courses prior to March 31, 2026.

Closed Session: A motion was made at 11:20 a.m. by Ladage and seconded by Laningham 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 December 16, 2025, Auction Board meeting.

Deliberations: There were no disciplinary matters for the Board to deliberate.

Motion To Return to Open Session: A Motion was made at 11:21a.m. by Corso and seconded by Ladage to return to open session. The Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Laningham and seconded by Corso to approve the minutes of the closed session of the December 16, 2025, Auction Board meeting as presented and to keep them closed. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Orders: There were no Consent Orders for the Board to consider.

Minutes Remain Closed: A motion was made by Ladage and seconded by Verma that due to the continuing need for confidentiality, all minutes of all closed sessions of the Auction Board meetings remain and be kept closed. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made at 11:24 a.m. by Corso and seconded by Ladage to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.