



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: April 28, 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 and Gwendolene Newton

Board Member(s) Present
at Springfield location: Jessica Doerr-Berger, Ben Ladage, James Rodney Laningham

Board Member Absent: John Matthew Corso and Otis Holley

Division Staff Present: Adrienne Levatino – Associate General Counsel
Nathaniel Chandler – Chief of Licensing and Education
Merle Shearer – Chief of Prosecutions
James Farrelly - Investigator
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 11:00 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 February 24, 2026, 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 February and March 2026 were presented and distributed. Nathaniel Chandler presented the number of active auction licenses for each type of auction license for the months of February and March 2026: • 440 Licensed Auctioneer - 208 • 441 Licensed Auctioneer – 766 • 444 Licensed Auction Firm - 213 • 445 Licensed Auction Continuing Education (CE) School – 4 • 446 Licensed Auction CE Course - 37
Investigations:	The Investigation Reports through the months of February and March 2026 were presented and distributed. The Investigations Report through the month of February 2026 was presented by James Farrelly: • New Auction Cases Received – 2 • Cases Referred to Prosecutions – 1 • Cases Closed in Investigations – 0 • Current Auction Caseload - 36 The Investigations Report through the month of March 2026 was presented by James Farrelly: • New Auction Cases Received – 9 • Cases Referred to Prosecutions – 2 • Cases Closed in Investigations – 1 • Current Auction Caseload - 42

Prosecutions: The Prosecutions Report through the months of February and March 2026 were presented and distributed.

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

- New Auction Cases – 1
- Pending/Open Cases – 6
- Cases Closed – 1
 - Case Closed (administratively)

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

- New Auction Cases – 2
- Pending/Open Cases – 7
- Cases Closed – 1
 - Case Closed (administratively)

Formal Hearing Schedule: There were no formal hearings scheduled.

Old Business: There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business: The Board was advised that the Governor has issued an Executive Order intended to protect the integrity of and public trust in Illinois government from insider trading caused by betting on predication markets and event contracts. This Executive Order emphasizes that government employees, which include board members, may not use their official positions or access to nonpublic information for personal financial gain.

Closed Session: A motion was made at 11:09 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 February 24, 2026, 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 11:11 a.m. by Ladage and seconded by Verma to return to open session. The Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Verma and seconded by Ladage to approve the minutes of the closed session of the February 24, 2026, 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 Laningham and seconded by Newton 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 11:13 a.m. by Ladage and seconded by Verma to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.