

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Chicago, through State law, Ordinance, and Executive Orders, is tasked with the responsibility of appointing members to over 100 boards and commissions. Many of these appointments require the advice and consent of City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has authority to appoint the members to the boards for five of our sister agencies, which are the Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Community Colleges, Chicago Park District, Chicago Transit Authority, and Chicago Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Housing Authority was established in 1934 pursuant to the Housing Authorities Act 310 ILCS 10 and authorizes the Mayor, through a series of amendments, with appointing 10 members to make up the Board of Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the City Council. Commissioners must be Chicago residents and at least three members must be Chicago Housing Authority residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 310 ILCS 10/6, the Commissioners shall select and appoint a Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Community College District No. 508, County of Cook, State of Illinois was established in 1911, pursuant to Illinois Public Community College Act, 110 ILCS, 805, and authorizes the mayor to appoint 7 members, with the advice and consent of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 110 ILCS, 805/3-26, the Board, by a vote of a majority of voting members, shall appoint a Chancellor, who serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the District.

WHEREAS, the Chicago Parks District was codified in 1933 pursuant to 70 ILCS 1505 Chicago Parks District Act. The Act was amended in 1988, authorizing the Mayor of Chicago to appoint seven commissioners to the Chicago Parks District Board of Commissioners with the advice and consent of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 70 ILCS 1505/5, the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners shall appoint a general superintendent and “such superintendent shall be chosen without regard to his or her political affiliations and upon the sole basis of his or her administrative and technical qualifications to manage the affairs of the district; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Transit Authority was established in 1945 pursuant to the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act 70 ILCS 3605/3, which also established the Chicago Transit Board as the governing and administrative body. 70 ILCS 3605/19 tasks the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate with to appoint three members

of the Board and the Mayor of Chicago with advice and consent of the City Council to appoint four members of the Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 70 ILCS 3605/27, the Board may appoint an Executive Director “who shall be a person of recognized ability and experience in the operation of transportation systems to hold office during the pleasure of the Board.” The Executive Director is a term that remains in statute, but “President” is used in practice; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the new Chicago Board of Education was established pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34 authorizing the Mayor of Chicago to appoint 7 members to the Board without the advice or consent of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, an amendment was passed that paved the way for the creation of an elected school board for Chicago Public Schools and expanded the size of the Board from seven members to 21 members over the course of 5 years; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-3, the Mayor of Chicago was tasked with appointing 10 members of the Chicago Board of Education as well as appointing a President of the Board to serve as a nonvoting member presiding over the Board. These members shall serve a two-year term that began January 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-3, the City of Chicago was divided into ten districts, and each of those districts divided into two subdistricts. Ten members of the Board were elected to serve two -year terms, which started January 15, 2025.

WHEREAS, starting with the 2026 general election, the public shall elect new members for each district according to the schedule set out in 105 ILCS 5/34-3 for terms starting January 15, 2027, creating a school board entirely governed by elected members by 2027; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-6, the Board, by a vote of the majority of its members, may appoint a general superintendent of schools, known in practice as the Chief Executive Officer, to serve pursuant to a performance-based contract; and

WHEREAS, these sister agencies and many others are funded by taxpayers. Transparency and openness in government is crucial to a healthy democracy. Transparency requires that the decisions and actions of elected government officials be open to public scrutiny such that the public has access to information about how government decisions are made; and

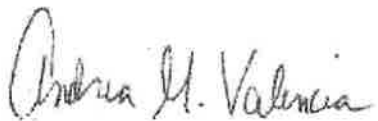
WHEREAS, these Board members who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council consent, except for the Chicago Public School Board which is moving to being fully elected in 2027, have the authority to appoint the highest ranking member of each of the five sister agencies, whether it is the CEO, Chancellor, President, or Superintendent.

WHEREAS, the appointees in these positions make decisions that affect the day to day lives of every Chicagoan, be it in determining how Chicago schools, the public transportation system, our housing authority, or our park districts are run and made accessible to all Chicago residents.

WHEREAS, the current landscape of the Federal government requires more than ever a commitment to transparency, accountability, and the checks and balances on which this Country was founded;

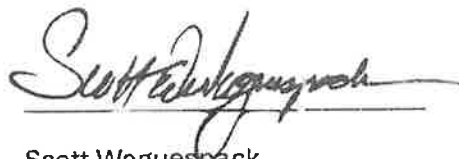
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee on Ethics and Government Oversight establish a subcommittee to analyze the appointment process as it relates to transparency and the democratic process and work to establish best practices. The subcommittee should establish periodic reporting requirements to the City Council from each agency Board Chairperson and CEO in which they outline operations, strategic planning and financial forecast for the agency; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee on Ethics and Government Oversight review the Municipal Code of Chicago and the City Council Rules of Order and Procedure and determine if new policies or deadlines should be enacted that require earlier notice to all City Council members of when Committees will be voting on appointments to the sister agency boards.



Andrea M. Valencia

City Clerk of Chicago



Scott Waguespack

Alderman, 32nd Ward

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