

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS  
Full Board Meeting  
Thursday, 09/19/24 – 5:45 p.m.  
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

**Present:** Carter, Fortado, Greer (5:46), Hanauer-Friedman , Locke, Lokshin, Peugh, , Rogers (5:49), Straub, Vanichtheeranont, Owen, Thorsland, Rodriguez, (6:24)

**Absent:** Taylor, Stohr, Cowart

1. **Call to Order:** 5:45 pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda–**

a. Moved by Locke second Vanichterranont  
unanimous approval.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from August 22, 2024.**

a. Moved by Carter, second Locke  
1. Unanimous approval.

4. **Public Participation–**

- a. Steve Summers: SA has asked us not to make any comments about FOIAs
- b. Carol Ammons: Here as a member of the Democratic Caucus at the state level. Here to ask the board members not to take action against Chair Carter. States this is an interpersonal issue. This appears to be removing someone in the Black community from her ability to speak. This board has a decision to make: look at the issues or internal politics of the people of the board. Will not make a public statement. Recommends the book Weathering by Geronimus.
- c. Aaron Ammons: It's clear there is a level of disagreement. Chair Carter will not be the next choice to chair this body. It is unnecessary and overreaching and we all make mistakes. Says there was enough smoke in the air to question Emily Rodriguez/s residency. An African American single mom who has a business shouldn't be removed because of a personal issue. Mentions cannibalism.

5. **Announcements/Communications–**

a. Carter: Missed Caucus and COW and saw that removing her was mentioned. She is trying and receiving no support. Someone did something to her car. Her

opinion is not valued. Everything she has stated has been true. She has not received respectful communication. She has been trying to unify this board since she came in.

b. Peugh: Saturday at 1pm Pride Parade.

c. Don Owen: Black Cultural Arts Fair at the I Hotel this weekend.

d. Eric Thorsland: Thinks we should not support any movement to unseat Chair Carter.

## **6. Review and Discussion of the Full Board Agenda**

a. (XIV. A.) Employee Health Insurance Benefit Plan – this will save money

b. (XV. A.) Audit.

i. Will be late per memo from the Auditor. He was not at COW and will not be at full board tonight.

1. External auditor noticed missing information and asked questions of incomplete audit.

a. Auditor Danos is blaming database issues.

i. RPC is very concerned that this will affect their grant funding.

ii. On October 1, we will be put on an FEIN lock.

iii. On October 16, the consequences will get more dire.

iv. This also happened in 2020 and 2021. In 2021 we were never noticed.

c. (XV. B.) Property Tax/ Levy Projection Rate

d. (XV. C.) Approve release of RFP 2-24-04 Cash Management Services for Champaign County

e. (XV. D.) Payment of Claims – nothing out of line

f. (XV. E.) Purchases not Following Purchasing Policy

i. Finance Chair Fortado will be voting this down because Auditor Danos says that this violates election ethics. There is clear legislation refuting this.

g. (XV. F.) Amendment to contract with PJ Hoerr for County Jail Project

i. Nearing end of project. Trying to get things done as quickly as possible so need to move funding before the next COW.

h. (XV. G.) Authorizing the Acceptance of Head Start and Early Head Start Grant for Vermillion, Iroquois, and Ford Counties.

i. Nothing new from COW.

- i. (XV. H.) General Obligation Refunding Bonds
  - i. There was a presentation on this at the COW.
- j. ARPA Update
  - i. We will be making some big decisions at the September 24th Special Finance Meeting:
    1. Big ones are Jail (\$500K) and HACC (\$675K) for Emergency Family Shelter.
    2. CoCT (\$20K) needs to move their RA money.
    3. Small Business Loans (\$400K)
    4. Pesotum Drainage Project (\$75K)

**7. Next Caucus Meeting:** October 15, 2024

**8. Adjournment** 6: 25 pm