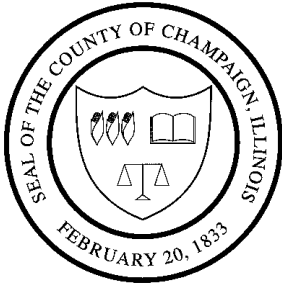


Committee of the Whole Meeting

Agenda Items - Distributed November 9, 2021

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FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STUDY SESSION

RE: American Rescue Act Funding

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Monday, August 30, 2021 – *6:00 P.M. *PLEASE NOTE TIME

Shields-Carter Meeting Room/Zoom

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

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MINUTES – *Subject to Approval*

Members Present:	Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, Stan Harper, Mary King, Jenny Lokshin, Jim McGuire, Brad Passalacqua, Chris Stohr, Jennifer Straub, Steve Summers, Leah Taylor, Eric Thorsland, Kyle Patterson
Member Physically Present:	Stephanie Fortado
Members Absent:	Jim Goss, Diane Michaels, Jacob Paul, Emily Rodriguez, Jodi Wolken
Others Present:	Darlene Kloeppel (County Executive), Kathy Larson (ARPA Project Manager), Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Fortado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. *Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

This item was inadvertently overlooked.

IV. Public Participation

Lee Ann Kelly, Champaign resident, spoke about how gun violence has affected many people that were not the intended victims. She would like the Board to use 5-10% of the ARPA funds for a violence prevention plan. She believes the County needs to have a collaborative approach to comprehensively address the five categories of social determinants of health. She also explained how a wrap-around center in neighborhoods would be beneficial to violence prevention.

Creel Lancaster, Garden Hills resident, gave testimony about their personal experience with gun violence, how simple things like streetlights would be beneficial and how Swift Program could help with the prevention of violence.

Arthur Paganini, Urbana resident and member of the PSL, would like to see some concrete action on this topic. He collected signatures for the creation of the Swift Program, here locally. Also, he wants to make sure the residents of our community are not evicted due to financial hardships. When people lose their homes, this can lead to more violence within the community.

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54 April Thomas, Urbana resident, explained how she has been affected by violence. She found it very
55 difficult to find resources to help her son. She would like to see more community programs to assist
56 offenders and families after the violence.

57
58 Hrant Kebantsi, Urbana resident, mentioned how brute force does not solve the violence problems. He
59 believes programs, like the Swift Program, and protecting the community from evictions can be beneficial
60 to the prevention of violence.

61
62 Alex Rogers, Urbana resident and member of the PSL, believes the COVID-19 pandemic has been the
63 sustained trauma that has left people in the “fight or flight” mode. He doesn’t think it is responsible
64 community advocacy or responsible leadership to expect someone to work in unsafe conditions or risk
65 eviction. He suggested the County Board makes sure no one in the County is evicted and create a Swift
66 Program in the community as a way to prevent violence.

67
68 Vincent Andujo stated he works with the Housing Authority Youth Build Program and First Followers
69 GoMAD Program to train young people. He believes with more resources we can better serve the
70 community with these programs. He has been able to serve 60-80 individuals in three years and wonders
71 what it would look like if he had a whole team of people working on this same initiative.

72
73 Josh Payne, Urbana resident, stated his opinion is that we are missing the overall bigger picture of
74 violence. We have to address the wounds and symptoms first. He believes a wrap-around community one-
75 stop shop for grassroots prevention would be helpful. He urges the Board to change their perspective of
76 violence.

77
78 Ken Salo, urban planning teacher and volunteer tutor, believes this is a great opportunity to rethink
79 alternative education as a way for violence prevention.

80
81 Jennifer Enoch, nurse, is asking the Board to add streetlights and sidewalks in the Garden Hills
82 neighborhood along with fixing the drainage issues. She also would like to see the groups that already
83 work in violence prevention within our community, receive funding to do more good work.

84
85 Traci Quigg Thomas, Champaign PTA Council President, stated the parents are concerned about the
86 violence in their schools and the schools have really had to step up and play an increasing role in the social
87 safety net. She has noticed with the absence of a strong social safety net; the schools are left to pick up the
88 pieces and this shouldn’t be their role. She urges the Board to invest in the grassroots organizations and
89 evidence-based programs to address the issue of community violence.

90
91 Brandi McCoy, Urbana resident, is echoing the need to invest in the Swift Program in our community. She
92 also believes that evictions should not be enforced either, as that will only increase the violence.

93
94 Meghan, Champaign School employee, believes that streetlights in the Garden Hills neighborhood should
95 be the biggest infrastructure investment and believes funding should go towards many of the violence
96 prevention organizations within our community.

97
98 Jenny Putman thanked Chair Fortado and the Board for giving the community two nights to contribute
99 their ideas. She believes we need to fund many of the violence interrupter organizations within our
100 community for them to do more effective work in our community.

101
102 Mike Ingram thanked all the participants and urged the Board to look at ways for the community to
103 interact virtually when the meetings go back to in-person. He encouraged the Board to work with other
104 bodies to add streetlights and other things to better the Garden Hills neighborhood. Also, he would like
105 many of the successful programs within the community to receive some extra help from the ARPA funds

106 as they are all doing their own part in the prevention of violence. Finally, he asked the Board to do some
107 research into a gun buy-back program and how that can help to prevent the violence.

108
109 **V. Communications**
110

111 Ms. King read a letter from Barbara Kessel. Ms. Kessel is advocating for community-based solutions and
112 does not want to see the majority of this federal funding go to the County Jail.

113
114 Ms. Straub read a letter from Anita Young. Ms. Young is requesting some funding be used to create an
115 interactive street level map that community members can report gunshots and other violence in real time.
116 She explained how this type of application could benefit the community.

117
118 Mr. McGuire said he understands there is a need for the programs and resources we have in the community
119 and that is why he supports them. He believes we need to fund the successful programs within the
120 community but wants to make sure that funding doesn't go to duplicate programs. He listed many of the
121 organizations, funded by the County Board, that provide the prevention services in the community.

122
123 Ms. Carter pointed out how she feels that many Board members are disconnected to what is going on in the
124 community.

125
126 Mr. Summers would like the Board to strongly consider programmatic and brick and mortar projects to
127 combat the violence within the community.

128
129 Mr. Thorsland read a letter from Carol Inskeep. Ms. Inskeep urged the Board to use funds to support
130 community-based services, like First Followers, to make a difference in the community.

131
132 Ms. Taylor read a letter from a constituent who stated how well Ms. Carter communicated something that
133 many Board members needed to hear.

134
135 Ms. Lokshin read a letter from Rebecca Motley. Ms. Motley asked that the Board support First Followers'
136 request.

137
138 Ms. Fortado received several letters and summarized the letters. All of the letters expressed the desire to
139 use funds for the community-based programs to invest in ways to combat the causes of violence within the
140 community.

141
142 **VI. Discussion – Community Violence**
143

144 Ms. Fortado began this section of the agenda by explaining that she wanted the Board to have an
145 opportunity to hear first-hand and learn from the people dealing with these issues on the ground. Ms.
146 Fortado introduced all of the speakers: Marlon Mitchell, Thom Moore, Angela O'Neil, Dr. Regina Parnell,
147 Richmond Hayes, Dr. Helen Neville, Dr. Gus Wood, Mark Pelmore and James Corbin.

148
149 Mr. Mitchell prefaced the conversation by stating this is not a presentation from First Followers, First
150 Followers just happens to be involved in many of these conversations. He began by introducing himself;
151 he is a PhD student at the University of Illinois and the founding Executive Director of First Followers.
152 Mr. Mitchell continued by introducing their proposal, the H3 Coalition: Harm, Healing and Hope and what
153 they will address in their presentation.

154
155 Mr. Mitchell explained that H3 is a Community Development Corporation and is an umbrella of agencies
156 that come together to provide services in these five areas: counseling/support, general education, economic
157 development, community outreach and civic engagement. He believes that all of the current agencies are

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158 operating in silos and they must all come together to give people the resources that they need. Mr. Mitchell
159 gave a timeline for developing, implementing and sustaining this program. He wrapped up his presentation
160 by explaining how community violence has affected him. This program is a promise to his family and
161 commitment to his community to address this problem.
162

163 Mr. Moore began his part of the presentation by stating a quote from George Bernard Shaw: “You see
164 things and say, ‘why?’ I dream things that never were and say, ‘why not?’”. He stated the H3 innovation
165 is a one-stop human service project. He went on to explain many of the issues that First Followers see each
166 day, why a one-stop center would be most beneficial and how this center would help those in need.
167

168 Ms. O’Neil spoke as a mother of a gun violence victim. She explained how she didn’t know where to go
169 but she was finally referred to First Followers. She described all of the services that were provided to her
170 and how those helped her. Ms. O’Neil believes this is a great program that needs to be extended to
171 everyone in need.
172

173 Dr. Parnell explained how the families in our community are hurting. She spoke about coming together as
174 a community to support these families, to support the entire family and community dealing with the
175 violence, and the need for a hub within the community. Dr. Parnell is a service provider, but she also
176 described how violence has affected her directly and indirectly. She believes that a coalition, like H3, is
177 vital for the community.
178

179 Mr. Hayes, a Counseling Psychology PhD student, described the research he is doing to restore our
180 communities. He spoke about the importance of healing and how he believes we need a framework to
181 bring healing and the community together in a radical way.
182

183 Dr. Neville, Counseling Psychologist and university professor, began by thanking the speakers before her
184 and First Followers for the work that they do. She continued by describing the different ways she has been
185 involved with the community regarding healing from violence. She believes H3 is the only program that
186 tackles all of the issues that go into healing from violence. Dr. Neville explained the different ways that H3
187 will help the community.
188

189 Dr. Wood, Labor Education professor, is here to discuss his research into local movement centers. He
190 outlined the historical purpose of community centers and provided a case study to show how the H3
191 concept does work. He believes there is potential for this to work in our community.
192

193 Mr. Pelmore, Business Elevator CEO, provided a map to show the “hot zones” for violence in Champaign.
194 He discussed violence from a business perspective. He explained how minorities in our community have a
195 low rate of business ownership and educational degrees. The mission of Business Elevator is to change the
196 landscape of minority-owned businesses to help disadvantaged neighborhoods become communities. He
197 described how he became involved in this initiative and the ways his program works.
198

199 Mr. Corbin, Community Navigator and Resource Specialist, described why entrepreneurship within the
200 minority communities would be beneficial. He spoke about the disconnect with the referral times from
201 agency-to-agency for separate resources. He also discussed why having a community center to provide the
202 services, proposed by the H3 Coalition, would assist with the prevention of violence. Mr. Corbin
203 concluded his presentation by explaining how he has been affected by gun violence.
204

205 Ms. Fortado thanked everyone for their participation in this conversation and then she opened the floor to
206 Board members for questions and discussion. Ms. Carter started this section by explaining how she relates
207 to the First Followers and she asked if they have accountants that will be able to give the reports needed
208 for the ARPA funds. Mr. Mitchell explained that they do have people in place but as they grow, they will
209 need to expand that part of their program.

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210 Mr. McGuire gave an overview of the services provided by the Youth Assessment Center and the Regional
211 Planning Commission's Economic Development Division. He stated we already have many of these
212 programs within the community and he doesn't believe First Followers has the framework to provide the
213 same level of service as these other programs. Dr. Parnell explained that many of the young people
214 involved in the community violence are not being serviced by the Regional Planning Commission and that
215 many of the speakers tonight have relationships with and live among these families. Mr. Mitchell stated
216 these other programs are doing the same work, but they are working in silos and this is the problem. Mr.
217 Moore pointed out that the H3 Coalition would provide services by the people that have been in the shoes
218 of those affected by community violence.

219
220 Ms. Straub asked who they envision collaborating with for the H3 Coalition. Mr. Mitchell stated that they
221 are willing to work with any community-based organization that has a passion, love and the wherewithal to
222 work along with them to resolve the issues.

223
224 Mr. Patterson reminded the Board that the amount of money received was based on the population of the
225 entire county and this money is meant for the whole county not just the unincorporated areas. He also
226 pointed out how the programs we currently have are not solving this crisis on the ground.

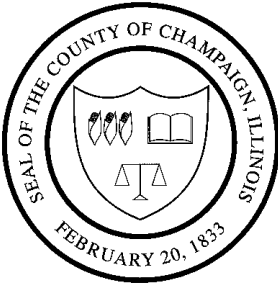
227
228 Dr. Wood spoke about the studies showing there's difficulty for people to access/receive services. He has
229 seen how these community centers help to build a preventative foundation within these communities.

230
231 Mr. Stohr wondered if computer and technology literacy would be a part of the services provided as this is
232 really needed for those that have been released from incarceration. If not, he asked that it be incorporated
233 as part of the general education.

234
235 Mr. Mitchell concluded the presentation by listing the educational background of this evening's presenters.
236 He stated this H3 Coalition is a radical shift in the ways we address this problem, and he wanted the Board
237 to know that First Followers has received many different types of grants, in the past.

238
239 **VII. Adjournment**

240
241 Chair Fortado adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.



FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STUDY SESSION

RE: American Rescue Act Funding

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Monday, August 31, 2021 – *6:00 P.M. *PLEASE NOTE TIME

Shields-Carter Meeting Room/Zoom

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

MINUTES – *Subject to Approval*

Members Present: Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, Stan Harper, Mary King, Jenny Lokshin, Jim McGuire, Chris Stohr, Jennifer Straub, Steve Summers, Eric Thorsland, Kyle Patterson

Members Physically Present: Stephanie Fortado

Members Absent: Jim Goss, Diane Michaels, Brad Passalacqua, Jacob Paul, Emily Rodriguez, Leah Taylor, Jodi Wolken

Others Present: Darlene Kloeppel (County Executive), Kathy Larson (ARPA Project Manager), Lisa Benson (RPC – Community Services Director), Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Fortado called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. *Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Ms. Straub to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Cowart. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Public Participation

Hrant Kebantsi, Urbana resident, spoke about the rent burden on the community and the upcoming end to the eviction moratorium. He urges the Board to take local action to protect the community against eviction.

Marlon Mitchell, Champaign resident, shared his experiences with housing in the community. He has seen an influx of individuals looking for housing.

Alex Taylor, PhD student, is asking the Board to cease all evictions in our community. He believes this will only exacerbate the current problems. He thinks it would be best to fund programs that provide permanent shelter to help fight criminality and poverty.

Nathan Alexander, Urbana resident and representative of University LGBT Resource Center, wanted to bring to light there are other minority populations that do not have equal access to assistance. It may be necessary for these programs to increase access to other minority populations.

56 Mike Ingram reminded everyone about a scam letter that is going around to extort money from
57 homeowners. These records are free or low-cost within your local Recorder of Deeds Office. He also
58 gave details about propertyfraud.com that will alert people about any records that come through his office
59 in their name.
60

61 The Board suspended the rules during discussion to give someone, that arrived late, the opportunity for
62 public participation. Linda Reynolds, Urbana resident, stated she has been involved with groups that help
63 with rent control issues. She emphasized how important it is to have safe affordable housing and to feel
64 safe in your community. She knows there are a lot of non-profits in our community that really know what
65 they are doing. She requested for the County Board to invest in video surveillance for a safer community.
66

67 **V. Communications**

68
69 Ms. Fortado mentioned the City of Champaign’s study session tonight about the infrastructure in Garden
70 Hills and the County Board’s water infrastructure study session on September 9th. She also let everyone
71 know that they plan to allow the elected officials some space to speak about their requests in a future
72 meeting.
73

74 Mr. Thorsland explained that they have cancelled the ELUC meeting to allow more time for the ELUC
75 Study Session regarding water infrastructure.
76

77 Mr. McGuire stated we may want to get updated information from the City of Champaign about their
78 plans for Garden Hills.
79

80 Ms. King stated the City of Champaign is still in the decision-making process for the Garden Hills
81 infrastructure and they do not have any plans, yet.
82

83 **VI. Discussion – Affordable Housing**

84
85 Ms. Fortado introduced the speakers for tonight’s topic of affordable housing and what they will be
86 presenting to the Board. The speakers will be Lily Walton, Lisa Benson, Danielle Chynoweth, Andy
87 Quarnstrom, Clark Solutions and the Central Illinois Land Bank.
88

89 Ms. Walton, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Champaign County, shared a presentation
90 that gave background information about their programs and some of the work that they are currently
91 doing. She shared some uses for ARPA funds and how they would benefit the community.
92

93 Ms. King asked Ms. Walton to expand on the idea of supporting local landlords. Ms. Walton explained
94 the landlords are struggling financially, as well. Support for them could include intervention programs for
95 renters or incentives for the landlords to take on the more traditionally risky renters. Mr. Patterson asked
96 how often the HACC has seen landlords discriminate against voucher holders. Ms. Walton said they
97 definitely don’t have enough landlords willing to take renters who have vouchers. She would really like
98 to see source of income protections in Champaign County or throughout the whole state, so the landlords
99 are not able to discriminate against voucher holders.
100

101 Ms. Carter asked about Bristol Place, the rent to own program. Ms. Walton explained the program is still
102 underdevelopment and too new to see an impact. She also explained exactly how the program works. Ms.
103 Lokshin asked about the mixed-income model in this neighborhood and how that is working. Ms. Walton
104 said it is working very well at both locations where they use this model.
105
106

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107 Mr. McGuire asked how to get emergency housing for homeless and housing for those going through the
108 Re-entry program. He also asked how people are being helped to apply for the rental assistance and if
109 they have any figures to show how many people in Champaign County are at risk for being evicted. Ms.
110 Walton stated that all emergency housing requests would need to go through the Continuum of Service
111 Providers for the Homeless. She explained they do not have any programs to directly refer people to the
112 HACC for vouchers but the best way to receive vouchers would be to refer individuals to First Followers.
113 To answer Mr. McGuire's additional questions, Ms. Walton stated she does not have figures for evictions
114 in Champaign County but assured the Board that the HACC does help their clients find and apply for
115 assistance.

116
117 Mr. Summers asked if the Youth Build Program is affiliated or engaged with the local trade unions. Ms.
118 Walton said they are beginning the conversations with the local trades on how to make this program a
119 little more robust. Mr. Stohr asked about their programs to refurbish the older homes. Ms. Walton
120 explained they are using their Youth Build Program to bring life back to these older homes.

121
122 After suspending the rules to allow a public participant to share comment, Ms. Fortado introduced the
123 next presentation from the Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Benson, Community Services Director,
124 began by listing some assistance programs they have in the community, but stated she has come to speak
125 specifically about the emergency rent assistance program. She gave background information about this
126 program, qualifications for the program and details of assistance provided to-date. Ms. Benson also
127 mentioned that she believes there is a need to use funds for internet access and risk mitigation for
128 landlords.

129
130 Ms. Carter asked if the landlords are complying with the requirements for the tenants to receive assistance
131 and the threshold for the poverty level requirements. Ms. Benson explained they have ways to pay the
132 tenants directly, but they try to work with the landlords before going that route. She also explained that
133 most programs assist people with an income of up to 200% of the poverty level but there are some that
134 will drop back down to their pre-COVID levels on October 1st.

135
136 Mr. McGuire asked about the reporting requirements and expanding on the risk mitigation suggestion.
137 Ms. Benson explained they are constantly recording and reporting data and the types of data they collect.
138 She also stated that she does not have a lot of information about the risk mitigation, but they are looking
139 into ideas for this.

140
141 Ms. Fortado asked why the Hispanic/Latino population was not provided in the race statistics and wanted
142 to make sure there isn't a disconnect with that group in our community. Ms. Benson explained that she
143 did not pull all of the data into her presentation, but they do have resources available to help that
144 community receive the rental assistance.

145
146 Ms. Chynoweth, Cunningham Township Supervisor, shared the Township's 2020 statistics and some of
147 the services they provided to the community. She encourages the Board to collaborate with the City's to
148 develop ideas for the housing needs in the community. She also shared the current needs, some of the data
149 to support those needs and things that need to be done to prevent homelessness in our community.

150
151 Mr. McGuire asked about the open housing within the County and if the vouchers would be able to pay
152 for rent for that housing. He also asked, if tenants are not paying their rent then how are we going to
153 safeguard the income for these landlords that are not receiving rent. Ms. Chynoweth encouraged everyone
154 to look at the amount given for the vouchers. She believes the voucher payments are very reasonable for
155 our area. For the assistance to landlords, she pointed out that landlords had an opportunity to apply for
156 assistance from the government specifically for them along with the ability to help their tenants apply for
157 rental assistance.

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Study Session Minutes

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159 Ms. Fortado asked about the people that have vouchers and are unable to find housing and if there is a
160 current waitlist for vouchers. Ms. Chynoweth explained that there is so much discrimination against
161 people with vouchers. This discrimination must end before change can happen. She also stated there is a
162 waitlist for vouchers and it is estimated that only 1 in 5 people, that qualify, actually receive vouchers.
163

164 Ms. Fortado explained that Mr. Quarnstrom had to leave the meeting due to another commitment, but he
165 would be sharing his slides with the Board. She extended her apologies for this.
166

167 Byron Clark, President of Clark Solutions, and Craig Walker, Project Supervisor of Clark Solutions,
168 presented their plan: Homes for Homeless Families. They explained their plan, statistics to support the
169 need for this plan, how it would work and their proposal for the County to use 5% of the ARPA funds for
170 their plan.
171

172 Mike Davis, Executive Director of the Central Illinois Land Bank, shared his background in the
173 affordable housing field. He also shared his approach for the communities, funding that is available for
174 his work, his proposal to use \$500,000 of ARPA funding for homeowner-occupied rehab projects and
175 ways to sustain funding for this work. He believes this is an opportunity to drive significant resources to
176 the rural areas of the County where people may feel left out of grant opportunities. Mr. Davis also
177 detailed some of the pilot programs they are currently running.
178

179 Ms. Fortado began the discussion with Clark Solutions and the Central Illinois Land Bank. She asked
180 both groups, does your budget account for the prevailing wage requirement for these funds, are you
181 thinking about how to keep the work local and using this as a pathway into construction trades for
182 underrepresented populations. Mr. Walker explained how they came up with their original budget, that
183 they did take the Davis-Bacon Act into consideration and that they do plan to incorporate programs like
184 Youth Build or the Swift Program to connect the community to their projects. Mr. Davis explained that
185 many communities are already doing the work he is proposing, everything he does must be prevailing
186 wage, and he has an open-ended request for qualifications for contractors.
187

188 Mr. Stohr asked if they have considered a sweat equity program like Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Walker
189 stated he has talked to Habitat for Humanity about this program and how that may work with his
190 program. Mr. Davis believes and explained why a sweat equity program wouldn't be beneficial for the
191 projects in his proposal.
192

193 Several Board members continued the discussion about the pros and cons of both of these proposals. Ms.
194 Fortado wrapped up the meeting by stating, no matter where you live, you have the right to decent
195 housing and access to basic infrastructure and the County Board currently has the opportunity to make
196 this possible within our community.
197

198 **VII. Adjournment**

199 Chair Fortado adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.
200

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY APPOINTMENT REQUEST FORM
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN BLACK INK

NAME: Norman E. Davis

ADDRESS: 3900 Kearns Dr. Champaign IL 61821

Street City State Zip Code

EMAIL: supervisor@champaigntownship.co **PHONE:** 217-352-9433

Check Box to Have Email Address Redacted on Public Documents

PARTY AFFILIATION: (Please check one) Democrat Republican Other, please explain:

NAME OF APPOINTMENT BODY OR BOARD: Champaign County General Assistance Review Board

BEGINNING DATE OF TERM: _____ **ENDING DATE:** _____

The Champaign County Board appreciates your interest in serving your community. A clear understanding of your background and philosophies will assist the County Board in establishing your qualifications. Please complete the following questions by typing or legibly printing your response. **IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT, OR REAPPOINTMENT, A CANDIDATE MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS APPLICATION.**

1. What experience and background do you have which you believe qualifies you for this appointment/reappointment?

I have been on the Champaign Township Board since 2011 and was recently elected as the
Township Supervisor. As the Supervisor, I have taken training with the General Assistance
Training Institute to know the laws and procedures for General Assistance. I believe that with
this training, I am qualified to rule on General Assistance appeals.

2. What do you believe is the role of a trustee/commissioner/board member and how do you envision carrying out the responsibilities of that role?

I believe that a fair and impartial judge of the merits of a case
must be paramount. Being fair means to not allow biases to
color the case before the judge but only the merits, the right or
wrong of a case. It is my job to winnow out the irrelevant to
come to a just conclusion.

3. What is your knowledge of the appointed body's operations, specifically property holdings and management, staff, taxes, fees?

As for the General Assistance Appeals board, I do not believe that there are any property holdings, taxes or fees; management & staff are at the discretion of the Champaign County Executive. Therefore, my job would be to only hear an appeal and rule on its merits solely.

4. Can you think of any relationship or other reason that might possibly constitute a conflict of interest if you are selected to serve on the body for which you are applying? (This question is not meant to disqualify you; it is only intended to provide information.) Yes No If yes, please explain:
If there was an General Assistance appeal involving a case in which I was, in my role as township Supervisor, the General Assistance Administrator, I would have to recuse myself.

5. Would you be available to regularly attend the scheduled meeting of the appointed body?

Yes No If no, please explain:

(the computer checked both of the boxes. I would be available for a regularly sceduled dependent on exactly the schedule. 2nd Tuesday of each month is the Township Board meeting, and that trumps the appeals board)

The facts set forth in my application for appointment are true and complete. I understand this application is a document of public record that will be on file in the County Board Office.


Signature

11/05/2021 *November 5, 2021*
Date



OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

Darlene A. Kloeppe, County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Board Members
FROM: Darlene Kloeppe, County Executive
DATE: November 9, 2021
RE: Recommended Appointments – additional information

Pursuant to the Executive’s authority to make county appointments to governmental and community boards and committees with County Board approval, and following an interview with all applicants received for open positions, I am recommending appointment of the following persons to fill vacancies of these positions, boards and committees (*incumbents noted in italics*).

Animal Control Administrator

The position of Animal Control Director is unusual in that it concurrently has filled the Animal Control Administrator appointment for the county. Following our posting and recruitment process, I have filled our vacancy for an Animal Control Director and am now seeking her appointment as Animal Control Administrator. Ms. Soder has over 10 years’ experience as a pet groomer and a Veterinary Technician and Clinical Instructor at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital with work in shelters, animal surgery, and mobile spay/neuter clinic coordination. I am recommending her appointment to fill the current vacancy for Animal Control Administrator.

- Heather Soder, who is appointed to a term of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023.

Supplemental information from her on-line application:

1996-Present U of I Veterinary Teaching Hospital

2016-present Junior Surgery and Shelter Medicine Service

2014-2016 Primary Care Service and Junior Surgery

2000-2008 Small Animal Surgical Technician

1996-2000 Imaging Radiation Therapy and Nuclear Medicine

1991- graduate of Midwest School of Dog Grooming, Chicago, IL

“I have had the pleasure of being a licensed Veterinary technician for 25 years. I believe I possess the knowledge, experience and drive that would make me an outstanding leader. I have extensive training in veterinary nursing, mentoring and training of students and technicians. I believe in crating a positive and inclusive work environment. I have excellent conflict resolution skills and frequently work with the public in highly stressful situations. I’m dedicated to humane animal welfare and strive to improve the lives of our animal companions. My goal is to create a facility that has positive engagement with our community as well as shelter partners and rescues.”



OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

Darlene A. Kloepfel, County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Board Members
FROM: Darlene Kloepfel, County Executive
DATE: November 2, 2021
RE: Recommended Board/Committee Appointments

Executive appointments for expiring terms of other community boards and committees are staggered throughout the year. In advance of term expirations, the Executive's Office advertises upcoming vacancies to notify interested applicants and to offer the Board the opportunity to recruit applicants or provide input to the Executive regarding any concerns or recommendations. Methods used to publicize upcoming vacancies include:

- Post on the county's website on the County Executive's page
- Post on the "vacancies" bulletin board located in Administrative Services
- E-mail notice to County Board Members and the news media
- Notice in the County Board's Committee of the Whole agenda under the Policy, Personnel and Appointments area of responsibility
- Word-of-mouth and inquiries from interested members of the public
- Announcements at public speaking events

Applications are reviewed and applicants interviewed. Considerations for making appointments include:

- Qualifications required by the board/commission statute or by-laws, including residence in the district, specific professional representation, required partisan balance, certifications and bonding requirements
- Constituent representation for demographic characteristics, including gender, race, age
- Constituent representation for geography of the district, including rural/urban or areas of the county
- Representation of consumers of the board's activities
- Difficulties or gaps in skills the board is experiencing
- Balance of experienced and newer members
- Balance of resources, interests and skills appointees can contribute to the board
- Input from County Board members; County officials; board members; staff and partners of the board with the vacancy, and interested members of the public

Prior to appointments being named, Board Members have an opportunity to see all applications (*italics indicates incumbent*) received in the November Committee of the Whole agenda packet. I have attached here the applications for appointments and will forward my recommendations to fill these vacancies at the December Committee of the Whole meeting.

#10 Town of Ogden Drainage District – 1 position – unexpired term ending 8/31/2023

- *John Ehmen*

Salt Fork Drainage District – 1 position – unexpired term ending 8/31/2022

- *Darren Johnson*

Silver Creek Drainage District – 1 position – unexpired term ending 8/31/2024

- Mark Douglas

Nelson-Moore-Fairfield Drainage District – 2 positions – unexpired terms ending 8/31/2022 & 2023

- *David Bright*
- Lucas Rogers

Champaign Mass Transit District Board – 1 Republican position – term 1/1/2022-12/31/2025

- *Philip Fiscella (R)*
- Issa Issantu (R)

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY APPOINTMENT REQUEST FORM
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN BLACK INK

NAME: ISSA T. ISSANTU

ADDRESS: 1205 W. BESLIN ST. URBANA IL 61801
Street City State Zip Code

EMAIL: issantu@gmail.com PHONE: 713-364-0049 (217-819-4822)
 Check Box to Have Email Address Redacted on Public Documents

PARTY AFFILIATION: (Please check one) Democrat Republican Other, please explain:

NAME OF APPOINTMENT BODY OR BOARD: MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD

BEGINNING DATE OF TERM: 01/01/2021 ENDING DATE: 12/31/2025

The Champaign County Board appreciates your interest in serving your community. A clear understanding of your background and philosophies will assist the County Board in establishing your qualifications. Please complete the following questions by typing or legibly printing your response. IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT, OR REAPPOINTMENT, A CANDIDATE MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS APPLICATION.

1. What experience and background do you have which you believe qualifies you for this appointment/reappointment?

I have 14 years of experience as a Logistics & supply chain Engineer. I have experience working in projects where transportation was among my attributions. I graduated with a Mso in Business Management since 2013. I also have a Bsc in Organizational Leadership. I live in Champaign-Urbana since 2008 and I know the community and its needs.

2. What do you believe is the role of a trustee/commissioner/board member and how do you envision carrying out the responsibilities of that role?

A Trustee/Commissioner is a member of the board who acts as a voting member. He participates in the development of policies, procedures and regulations for the CU-MTD to deliver a service that meets the community expectations. I have the ability to act as a voting member since I belong to the community.

3. What is your knowledge of the appointed body's operations, specifically property holdings and management, staff, taxes, fees?

My knowledge of the appointed body's operations comes from my past experience as a Logistics Engineer. I have served in cross-functional projects where the board had to decide on the directions of operations for the sake of different stakeholders

4. Can you think of any relationship or other reason that might possibly constitute a conflict of interest if you are selected to serve on the body for which you are applying? (This question is not meant to disqualify you; it is only intended to provide information.) Yes No If yes, please explain:

5. Would you be available to regularly attend the scheduled meeting of the appointed body?

Yes No If no, please explain:

The facts set forth in my application for appointment are true and complete. I understand this application is a document of public record that will be on file in the County Board Office.



Signature

12/01/2020

Date