

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
Full Board Meeting
Thursday, 08/24/2023 – 5:45 p.m.
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Present: Carter, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Patterson, Peugh, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Rogers, Hanauer-Friedman, Fortado, Stohr

1. Call to Order: 5:47 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda–

- a. Moved by Rogers, second Locke.
unanimous approval.

3. Approval of the Minutes from July 2023.

- a. Moved by Thorsland, second Locke,
unanimous approval

4. Public Participation–

- a. Barbara Kessel– District 10– Would like 2 free phone calls from jail, but it's not in the current RFP. Voice printing is not in the current contract. This technology is only possessed by Securus and GTL—who will not provide free calls. ALCU is very concerned about taking biometric data without consent. Barbara believes that this is illegal and that the RFP is calling for illegal collection of biometric data.
- b. Sandra Ahten– RFP isn't asking for free or competitive phone calls. Prisoners have bad service now with Securus. Securus is \$60K/year, Ameelio is \$50K/year. Communication with family and support system is vital. RFP needs to be rewritten.
- c. Brian Dolinar– Advocating for free phone calls at the jail. RFP only mentioned “affordable calls” but no mention of free calls. 2 free phone calls is about \$330/month for prisoners and their families. That's about \$4k/year. Massachusetts just passed a budget for free phone calls in all jails and prisons. In IL we have penny/minute phone calls.

5. Announcements/Communications–

- a. Member Fortado explained that she and Straub are going to be on a review committee regarding the jail communications RFP. Fortado suggested a backdoor clause and Sherrif is in agreement to add an alternative to the RFP that asks what it

would cost to do free phone calls. We will continue to report back.

b. Member Ingram spoke regarding the stench emanating from the Kraft plant. It's a bit better, but still very bad. If EPA has been contacted. The State has been contacted. Deb Feinen reminded Mike that this is county land.

6. Review and Discussion of the Full Board Agenda

- a. (VI) John Farney will be appointed.
- b. (XII) Closed Session on pending litigation
- c. (XVI. A) No purchases not following purchase order!
- d. XVI. B) Jeff Willson is being appointed vice chair of facilities.
- e. (XVII. A) Jeff Wilson told the Veterans Assistance Commission that they should ask for \$3/hour raise for the director (who is new), an administrative assistant, and increased hours for the director. They voted yes and now we have to give it to them. He had no authorization to do this even from his own caucus. "Don't worry about it. They'll fund it."
- f. (XVII. B) Property Tax Distributions Discussion
- g. (XVII.C.) ARPA– we have \$165K in unallocated community violence prevention funds right now.
 - i. MHB is returning \$127,535 in ARPA funds.
 - ii. \$96,418 unallocated for department funding.
 - iii. These funds could pay for the first three requested items, and we could consider using ARPA on the Circuit Clerk's request with the money we will receive from ARPA next year.

6. Next Caucus Meeting: September 21, 2023

7. Adjournment 6:25 pm