

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 at 10:00AM via WebEx

Present at the meeting via WebEx:

Chairman Michael J. Brennan
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries
Commissioner Christopher Harris
Commissioner Maria Portela
Commissioner Barbara Flores
Commissioner Marc Parker
Commissioner Deborah Baker
Commissioner Deborah Simpson
Commissioner Stephen Mathis

Not Present:

Commissioner Thomas Tyrrell

IWCC staff present at the meeting via WebEx:

Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Cole D. Garrett, Deputy General Counsel
Annette Roti, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Whitney Martin, Manager Research and Education

On September 20, 2021, at 10:02 AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the meeting to order. Michele Kowalski took roll and Chairman Brennan verified a quorum was present. Chairman Brennan began the meeting by congratulating Commissioner Flores on her recent appointment to Associate Judge of Cook County. The Chairman then introduced Whitney Martin as the new Research and Education Manager.

Chairman Brennan advised that draft minutes for the Board Meeting held on June 21, 2021, had been circulated and asked for any objections to the minutes as written. Hearing no objection, Chairman Brennan called for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mathis so moved, Commissioner Portela seconded the motion, and the motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 Meeting of the Commission carried unanimously.

As to old and new business, Chairman Brennan announced that the Commission would be enforcing the Red Line beginning on November 1, 2021 now that CompFile is equipped to accommodate. Chairman Brennan then announced that the Workers' Compensation Review Board recommended the appointment of retired Judge James Michael McGing as an Independent Arbitrator for the Commission. He reiterated the need for an additional independent arbitrator to hear cases of the IWCC staff and asked the Board to forward the resume of anyone who would be a good candidate.

Chairman Brennan next asked the Board about returning to in-person oral arguments. Discussion among the Board ensued, and the consensus was not to return to in-person oral arguments at this time, especially with the COVID-19 numbers still high.

As to new business Commissioner Baker agreed to help with the production of packets within the CompFile portal taking over the duties from Commissioner Flores.

There were no members of the public present via WebEx and no public comment.

Upon no further business, Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn, Commissioner Portela seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:17AM.