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# Transcript of Board Meeting

**Date:** April 8, 2026

**Case:** Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD

BOARD MEETING

Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:26 a.m.

Job No.: 628379

Pages: 1 - 68

Reported By: Courtney Petros, RPR, CSR

1 Board meeting, held at:

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4 CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

5 567 West Lake Street

6 Chicago, Illinois 60661

7 312.681.3137

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12 Before Courtney Petros, a Certified Shorthand  
13 Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter in  
14 and for the State of Illinois.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

LESTER L. BARCLAY, CHAIRMAN

REV. DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, VICE CHAIRMAN

ROSA Y. ORTIZ

ROBERTO REQUEJO

ALSO PRESENT:

NORA LEERHSEN, ACTING PRESIDENT

SISAVANH BAKER, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

GEORGETTE GREENLEE, SECRETARY

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning, I would  
3 like to call to order the meeting of the Chicago  
4 Transit Board for April 8th, 2026.

5 Georgette, please call the roll.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.

7 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

9 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

11 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

13 DIRECTOR JAKES: Here.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, you do  
15 have a quorum.

16 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order business  
17 is public comment.

18 Georgette.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, we do  
20 have five public comments for today. We have one  
21 that is holding, and that is Alderman Burnett.  
22 And I am trying to read -- what does mean? It's  
23 like the sign language. Does that mean go or does  
24 that mean stop? He's ready or no? We're ready.

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1           Okay. So, Alderman Burnett, can you hear  
2 me?

3           ALDERMAN BURNETT: Yes, I can hear you.  
4 Can you hear me?

5           MS. GREENLEE: I can. Welcome to our  
6 meeting. We are ready to hear your public  
7 comment. You do have three minutes. And your  
8 time starts now.

9           ALDERMAN BURNETT: Thank you. Good  
10 morning, Chair, and members of the Board.

11           I'm here today with a simple message that  
12 it's time to build. We can't delay. We can't  
13 defer, but we have to build now. Because, right  
14 now, we have something rare. We have momentum, we  
15 have funding tools, and we have a window to act  
16 decisively. And that window will not stay open  
17 forever.

18           I mean, particularly, let's look at what's  
19 happening on the west side. Fulton Market is no  
20 longer merging. It's an established, expanding,  
21 accelerating, and growing market. And River West  
22 is growing right alongside it.

23           Just beyond that, the United Center  
24 supposed to be the anchor of a transformative

1 project that will bring new generations of housing  
2 and job opportunities to the west side.

3 The question isn't whether the growth is  
4 coming. The question is whether our transit  
5 system will be ready for the growth. Because  
6 growth without transit is congestion, growth  
7 without stations is missed opportunities, and  
8 growth without access limits who benefits.

9 If we invest now, CTA can share and shape  
10 that growth. We can increase the ridership, we  
11 can reduce congestion, we can connect people to  
12 jobs, education, and opportunities. And we can  
13 finally make it easier to connect CTA with Metra,  
14 building a truly integrated transit system for the  
15 region. But it only happens if you start putting  
16 stations where people are and where they're going.

17 And so my ask is the considerations of  
18 Green Line stations at Halsted, at Racine, and  
19 Elizabeth and Western as well as one I know has  
20 already been in conversation, but a Pink Line  
21 station at Paulina near the United Center.  
22 Stations in the middle of neighborhoods, stations  
23 that match the scale and speed of growth are  
24 already under way.

1           And we need to be honest about the cost of  
2 waiting. Morgan opened in 2012 at roughly 38  
3 million. Damen opened in 2024 at roughly 80  
4 million. It's not just inflation, it's a warning  
5 to what happens when we delay these decisions.

6           Every year we wait, the construction costs  
7 go up, labor costs go up, and materials costs  
8 more. And the projects we can build today become  
9 harder to build tomorrow. It's more expensive.  
10 It's not neutral when we wait.

11           At the same time, we have financing tools  
12 right now. And I'm very fortunate to have the TIF  
13 funds in the Kinzie corridor that can generate  
14 roughly a billion dollars in revenue for the  
15 remaining life of eight years. But that's only  
16 eight years. It's not permanent funding, and it's  
17 not flexible forever.

18           There is a ticking clock that runs out  
19 where these dollars go away. And we have already  
20 used TIF to support transit investments before.  
21 We know it works. And we know it's possible. So  
22 the question is not whether we can do this, the  
23 question is will we do it while the resources are  
24 still here?

1           And I want to be clear, the City and I  
2           want to be strong partners in this moment because  
3           we understand what transit investment means; it  
4           means stronger communities, a more connected  
5           workforce, real access to education, and long-term  
6           economic growth that benefits the entire city.

7           It's not just about infrastructure. It's  
8           about the opportunity. So there's an urgency in  
9           our governance. Today, the Board still has the  
10          ability to act with clarity and speed. That will  
11          not always be the case.

12          As governance evolves and we become more  
13          regional, decisions will become more complex, more  
14          layered, and slower to move. They may have  
15          long-term benefits for the entire region, but, in  
16          the short term, it means we have to execute on the  
17          ability to act quickly as a city, and our time is  
18          limited to now. So this is the moment.

19          MS. GREENLEE: Alderman Burnett --

20          ALDERMAN BURNETT: I'm done with my time?

21          MS. GREENLEE: Yes, you are.

22          ALDERMAN BURNETT: Okay.

23          MS. GREENLEE: If you can bring your  
24          comments to a close, that would be great.

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1 ALDERMAN BURNETT: Yeah. So I just want  
2 to reiterate the importance is now. I would love  
3 to work with you all in how we can continue to  
4 build stations end-line stations in our  
5 neighborhoods.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you,  
9 Alderman. I know we connected earlier, and we'll  
10 continue to discuss this important issue. Thank  
11 you for your support for transit.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: As well, Alderman,  
13 thank you for sharing your thoughts, and I'll work  
14 with you, Nora, and we'll address some of those  
15 concerns.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Our next public comment  
18 speaker is Tangela Scott.

19 MS. SCOTT: Do I go there?

20 MS. GREENLEE: Yes, please.

21 Welcome, Ms. Scott. Please have a seat.  
22 You will have three minutes. And your time starts  
23 now.

24 MS. SCOTT: Good morning, members of the

1 Board. My name is Tangela Scott. I'm here today  
2 to testify on behalf of my dear friend, Raymond  
3 Harrison, who was murdered on the Pink line this  
4 past December.

5 Raymond wasn't just a passenger or a  
6 headline. He was a man of deep integrity. He was  
7 one of my best men at my wedding. He was a loyal  
8 friend, a devoted husband and father who worked  
9 hard every day to provide for his wife and kids.

10 Raymond was the sole provider for his  
11 household. He did everything a man should. He  
12 went to work. He supported his family. He  
13 trusted CTA literally with his life to get him  
14 home and everywhere else for that matter.

15 Because the system failed to protect him,  
16 his wife and children are now facing a level of  
17 hardship that is unimaginable. They didn't just  
18 lose a husband and a father. They lost their  
19 stability, their peace of mind. They literally  
20 live steps away from the very train he took his  
21 last breath on. So every day they are reliving  
22 that fateful day.

23 When we talk about transit safety, we are  
24 talking about the fact that a hardworking man was

1 taken from his family that depended on him for  
2 everything. The resource that held that family  
3 together is no longer there. They will never have  
4 a normal day without him.

5 Over the last year, CTA has seen violence  
6 and it has become a daily fear for paying  
7 passengers and you guys own employees are being  
8 attacked by people, people are getting pushed on  
9 the tracks, stabbed, beat, robbed at gunpoint.  
10 And while we hear about the safety service, the  
11 reality on the ground is different.

12 Rider satisfaction regarding personal  
13 security has plummeted. Violent incidents on the  
14 Pink Line have left communities feeling abandoned.  
15 This is unacceptable that residents of the city  
16 cannot commute to work without fear of never  
17 returning home.

18 CTA needs a sign on every bus and train  
19 that warns passengers to ride at your own risk  
20 because we are not liable for their safety.

21 The measures currently in place are not  
22 working. We need more than just cameras recording  
23 our deaths. We need a visible, consistent  
24 presence that provides -- that prevents these

1 tragedies before they even happen.

2 I'm asking this Board to look beyond the  
3 spreadsheets. Look at the bed that Raymond is no  
4 longer in. I am calling for a immediate effective  
5 security for the workers and families who keep  
6 this city running.

7 Raymond Harrison deserved to grow old with  
8 his wife and see his children proceed in life  
9 successful. I am here to make sure his name is  
10 not forgotten and to demand you make the system  
11 safe enough so that no other family has in this  
12 world -- has their world destroyed on you guys'  
13 watch.

14 Raymond Harrison may be just another  
15 incident to you-all, but to us and his family and  
16 friends, he was and he is somebody.

17 So I just want to ask today -- I don't  
18 know if you can answer the question -- what safety  
19 measures are in place to make your passengers and  
20 your workers more secure at work?

21 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: And,  
22 Ms. Scott, first of all, I want to thank you for  
23 coming today and speaking about Mr. Harrison. I  
24 am so sorry for the loss of your friend. I want

1 to offer you condolences for his loss.

2 You spoke very impactfully about his death  
3 and the larger issues, and I really appreciate you  
4 coming to the Board to say that.

5 Part of what I'm going to talk about in my  
6 remarks is some of our most recent work on  
7 security because, you're right, it has to be front  
8 and center. So I'm going to share some of that  
9 information. But I also want to connect you with  
10 Eddie Winters on our security system who is in the  
11 room. And we can have an ongoing dialogue where  
12 you're updated on the latest work that we're doing  
13 in this area with police and other entities.

14 MS. SCOTT: Please do. And another thing,  
15 this happened in December. His wife and his  
16 daughter is here. We haven't heard anything from  
17 CTA, not even a simple condolences, nothing. So  
18 we just -- this is our last chance to have our --  
19 heard about Raymond Harrison, so it's just not  
20 pushed to the side.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Absolutely.  
22 And I've already spoken with our acting general  
23 counsel and other entities in advance of you  
24 coming today to make sure that you have all the

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1 information you need and that you hear from us  
2 with information that you need. And I'm going to  
3 make sure that happens.

4 MS. SCOTT: Okay. Thank you. All right.  
5 So that concludes my remarks.

6 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you for sharing.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Our next public comment  
8 speaker is Marquetta Johnson --

9 MS. SCOTT: Marquetta.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Marquetta Johnson.

11 Welcome, Ms. Johnson. You have three  
12 minutes, and your time starts now.

13 MS. JOHNSON: I didn't write a speech.  
14 And I'm Raymond Harrison's wife.

15 I'm now having to --

16 MS. GREENLEE: Do you have some tissue?

17 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yeah.

18 MS. JOHNSON: I just want to read from  
19 your page. Your safety and security is our top  
20 priority always. The CTA and the Chicago Police  
21 Department are committed to providing a safe  
22 commute for customers and employees.

23 December 22nd -- December 23rd, 1:22 in  
24 the morning, Raymond was murdered on the CTA Pink

1 Line. And as my friend stated, I stay nearly two  
2 houses from the Pink Line. I'm triggered every  
3 day. A train come pass and I hear it. His  
4 coworker had to get off the train to run to get  
5 somebody and call the police.

6 When y'all page said y'all provide 24  
7 hour, 7 days a week security on the trains  
8 platform and no one was there and he had to get  
9 off the train and leave him all by himself and all  
10 y'all got is cameras.

11 Where are the actual people that y'all are  
12 saying that's supposed to be on his train? The  
13 information that y'all have provided on your  
14 paper -- on y'all page, you need to take down.  
15 Y'all are not living up to it.

16 I haven't slept since December 23rd. My  
17 daughter is turning into an alcoholic. I'm  
18 putting back pieces that I shouldn't have to put  
19 back because y'all said security is y'all top  
20 priority for y'all commuters. And it wasn't. And  
21 it isn't.

22 Raymond was murdered December 23rd. Maybe  
23 two days later, somebody else was murdered. Maybe  
24 two weeks after that, somebody else was murdered.

1 I had to look at this every day on the  
2 news. I'm looking at this, people partying on the  
3 trains, smoking on the trains, sleeping on the  
4 trains.

5 How is that safe for the people that just  
6 trying to get home to their families? That's all  
7 he was trying to do. That's it. And y'all care  
8 more about people that's on the train passing out  
9 from getting high that's making that choice. They  
10 making that choice.

11 Raymond didn't choose to be murdered. He  
12 chose to get home to his family. And he never  
13 made it because there wasn't security on the  
14 trains to handle the situation that he felt like  
15 he had to handle once the man came and approached  
16 him. Where was the security?

17 And y'all say that your top priority is  
18 the commuters getting back and forth home. And  
19 it's not. I haven't slept since December 23rd.  
20 Do y'all know how much that plays back in my head?  
21 Do y'all know how much weight I'm losing, how bad  
22 I'm stressing, how bad me and my kids are  
23 stressing?

24 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you very

1 much for being here Ms. Johnson. We're going to  
2 remain in touch, and we appreciate what you shared  
3 today.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Our next public comment  
5 speaker is Chiquita --

6 MS. JOHNSON: She don't want to speak.

7 MS. SCOTT: She said she don't want to  
8 speak anymore. That's the daughter of Raymond  
9 Harrison. And we all were here for that.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Our last public comment  
11 speaker is Keith Kysel.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there are  
14 no further public comment speakers.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Thank you  
16 to all of our speakers this morning.

17 Our next item of business --

18 DIRECTOR JAKES: Chairman, I'm sorry. I  
19 can't let that go.

20 Who is going to keep up with her, she and  
21 her family?

22 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Yeah. So I've  
23 already spoken with Sisavanh this morning before  
24 this meeting with regards to any administrative

1 aspects related to their case that they want any  
2 information on.

3 And Eddie Winters from security is who I  
4 already designated to speak with them. And I  
5 believe they're connecting already outside. And  
6 we're going to make sure that the breadth of their  
7 issues are addressed if other staff needs to reach  
8 out as well.

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Nora, I understand from  
10 a legal liability standpoint as a lawyer, but when  
11 we have these violent crimes like this and she  
12 said no one ever connected with the family at all,  
13 do we at least make some connection at times? I  
14 know we can't do it in every single instance. I  
15 understand that. But something that is so  
16 alarming as the loss of life.

17 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I'm going to have to step  
18 away for a second. I don't know if that matches  
19 with quorum or not, but I just need a minute.

20 Thank you.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: So, Chairman,  
22 there are instances where we do reach out. I've  
23 reached out personally to families before in  
24 deaths on CTA.

1           We can look at having a more coordinated  
2 reach out in regards to issues on the system. My  
3 approach as the leader of CTA is the commitment to  
4 improving what we know needs to be improved on the  
5 system in terms of security. And that's been the  
6 driving force of so much of the last several  
7 months for exactly the reasons we've heard today.

8           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yeah. But I think that  
9 sometimes an acknowledgment without acknowledging  
10 liability for something, just that a human touch  
11 would go a long way.

12           ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Yeah.  
13 Absolutely. There's a practice where families  
14 often reach out to the law department and  
15 different departments to support them in cases or  
16 issues that they need. And we're always very  
17 careful to make sure they're supported.

18           We can make sure we're looking at that  
19 more closely as well and look at ways to reach out  
20 with a personal touch and not have legal concerns  
21 in mind. Absolutely.

22           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

23           MS. GREENLEE: We don't have a quorum  
24 right now.

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1           Perhaps, Chairman Barclay, you may want to  
2 call a three-minute recess.

3           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yeah. We can do that.

4           MS. GREENLEE: May we have a motion?

5           DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

6           MS. GREENLEE: Second.

7           DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.

8           MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
9 Jakes, seconded by Director Requejo that the Board  
10 will take a three-minute recess.

11           We'll take a roll call vote with no  
12 quorum.

13           Director Requejo.

14           DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

15           MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

16           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

17           MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

18           DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

19           MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

20           (A recess was taken.)

21           MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, may we  
22 have a motion to resume the meeting?

23           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion to  
24 reconvene the meeting?

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1 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

2 DIRECTOR JAKES: Second.

3 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
4 Requejo, seconded by Director Jakes that the  
5 meeting be reconvened. The time is 10:51.

6 We'll take a roll call vote.

7 Director Requejo.

8 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Present.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

10 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

14 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
16 business is the report -- the president's report,  
17 which will be given by our acting president, Nora  
18 Leerhsen.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you,  
20 Chairman.

21 And before I begin, I just want to  
22 recognize that I just spoke personally with  
23 Ms. Johnson and Ms. Scott and Ms. Johnson's  
24 daughter. And we will absolutely keep them

1 updated on all aspects related to their case and  
2 anything they're interested in. But I did express  
3 deep condolences from CTA for the tragedy that  
4 their family faced. And I want to thank them for  
5 coming and speaking so movingly on this important  
6 issue.

7 Chairman, Directors, over the past several  
8 weeks, we've been navigating certain  
9 well-publicized dynamics with the Federal  
10 Government. As you know, early last month, we  
11 submitted a revised security enhancement plan,  
12 which laid out increased resources and a holistic  
13 approach to the dynamic work that is occurring on  
14 our system.

15 Following that submission, the FTA  
16 indicated that the funds that were at risk would  
17 not be withheld at this time.

18 And with regards to the pause in the  
19 funding for the Red Line Extension and Red/Purple  
20 Modernization projects that had lasted for months,  
21 last month, CTA took legal action. And we are  
22 happy to report that the funding has currently  
23 resumed and the projects are continuing  
24 uninterrupted. In fact, we are preparing for the

1 historic groundbreaking for the Red Line Extension  
2 project in the coming weeks.

3 This is all very good news for CTA. And  
4 it came as the result of the hard work, late  
5 nights, and strategizing of our team. And I want  
6 to thank everyone involved in both of those  
7 efforts for their work in advocating for CTA in  
8 these new and unprecedented scenarios.

9 And while we navigate this work, it's  
10 incredibly important to me that we remain laser  
11 focused on our core mission of reliable, frequent,  
12 and safe transit service, even despite these  
13 larger tasks at hand.

14 For the first three months of the year,  
15 bus service averaged 99.6 percent delivery,  
16 exceeding prepandemic levels, and rail service has  
17 continued to improve coming out of the winter  
18 months as we continue to target service delivery  
19 issues with new, strategic, innovative approaches  
20 that we develop as a team.

21 Our bus frequent network is meeting our  
22 committed ten-minute headways over 92 percent of  
23 the time. And this has grown steadily over the  
24 past year.

1           We're seeing this play out in stronger  
2 customer survey results. We're happy to report  
3 that our most recent survey of customers shows  
4 that they are seeing the impact of years of  
5 aggressive hiring and vastly improved service  
6 delivery.

7           The fall 2025 customer survey shows 77  
8 percent rider satisfaction, an increase of 6  
9 percentage points from the same time last year,  
10 and even surpassing the level of customer  
11 satisfaction we saw reported from riders  
12 prepandemic. Aspects like wait time and  
13 reliability of service have shown improvement, and  
14 we're dedicated to even further improvement in  
15 those areas.

16           And the survey confirmed that our efforts  
17 on security and cleanliness are the right places  
18 to focus. Our 2026 budget increased cleaning  
19 resources by over \$1.1 million because we know  
20 this needs attention.

21           We've steadily been growing resources as  
22 well. We're currently performing nearly 3,000  
23 rail deep cleans per month. This is over 60  
24 percent more than we were in 2019. And on the bus

1 side, we're averaging 4,044 deep cleans per month,  
2 the highest level we have seen in eight years. We  
3 have 15 percent more janitors than we did in 2019,  
4 and we want to see that number even grow.

5 We're working actively and closely with  
6 our union partners and staff to design new ways to  
7 make our cleaning approach even more impactful for  
8 riders.

9 And with regards to the ever important  
10 issue of safety and security, I want to share a  
11 moment to share some of the Chicago Police  
12 Department's most recently publicized data just on  
13 Friday relating to data on CTA crime, which shows  
14 some promising trends.

15 If you look at March 2026 compared to the  
16 previous March, Part 1 crimes or major crimes have  
17 dropped 24 percent. When comparing March 2026 to  
18 the same month in 2025, violent crime has reduced  
19 30 percent. Year-to-date major crimes have CTA --  
20 on CTA have decreased 12 percent, and property  
21 crimes have decreased 22 percent.

22 I share these not to celebrate but to  
23 reflect on the importance of this issue. And one  
24 of the ways that we track the effectiveness of the

1 increase of resources is to look at these numbers.  
2 And we do see the past month seeing an impact in  
3 terms of the strategic work that we're doing and  
4 the increased resources that we've been putting  
5 through over the past year.

6 We've been headed in this more positive  
7 direction for some time as a result of 2025's  
8 strong focus on strategic data driven missions  
9 with the Chicago Police Department.

10 Last year, we were closely tracking  
11 improved crime numbers on the Red and Blue Line,  
12 in particular, as a result of the Red Line  
13 missions and Blue Line code of conduct missions.  
14 And these latest figures I cite are the latest  
15 outgrowth of the yearlong commitment to close  
16 partnership and strategic deployment.

17 And this work is coming from multiple  
18 angles. Also announced this past month was the  
19 Cook County State's Attorney's Chicago transit  
20 authority task force, which includes 36 state's  
21 attorneys and investigators from a cross-section  
22 of bureaus. They will participate in specialized  
23 training with the CTA and the Chicago Police  
24 Department and serve as an internal resource to

1 strengthen our transit-related prosecutions.

2           And the State's Attorney's Office also  
3 announced a new CTA crime pretrial release  
4 conditions protocol, which adds an additional  
5 layer of protection for transit riders and  
6 workers. It builds on the Office's existing  
7 policy requiring assistant state's attorneys to  
8 seek pretrial detention for all violent offenses  
9 committed on public transit.

10           This work comes out of a strong  
11 partnership between myself, Superintendent  
12 Snelling, and Cook County State's Attorney Eileen  
13 O'Neill Burke.

14           I will be attending some of these  
15 assistant state's attorney trainings at CPD on  
16 site in the coming weeks to express my gratitude  
17 and support for this historic focus on CTA from  
18 these entities. And I'm thankful for their  
19 partnership and know it will continue to produce  
20 results for CTA safety.

21           What I want to be clear to the Board and  
22 the public is that our current partnerships with  
23 law enforcement are stronger than they've been in  
24 over a decade of my work directly with the police,

1 and they're growing every day.

2 Combined with the unprecedented engagement  
3 in the design of non-law enforcement resources  
4 through our safe ride ambassador pilots that are  
5 being developed, CTA is doing more than ever and  
6 is absolutely committed to continuing to grow all  
7 of this work on this incredibly important issue.

8 And while we address these ever important  
9 issues of security, we do not want to stop  
10 implementing CTA's vision of a welcoming,  
11 connected system. This month is very active on  
12 that front as well.

13 In my focus on adding greenery to CTA's  
14 properties, as you saw, we're kicking off spring  
15 by announcing a partnership with Green Corps  
16 Chicago to install landscaping and natural  
17 resources at nine stations. And we're incredibly  
18 excited about this partnership because Green Corps  
19 is a program that focuses on skill development and  
20 job opportunities for individuals with barriers to  
21 employment.

22 This month, we're also installing the  
23 child size benches I had previously announced at  
24 ten locations throughout the system. Inspired by

1 the work I had seen in Paris's Metro, this will  
2 come just in time for spring and summer to welcome  
3 children in a new way onto CTA.

4 And the partnership with Divvy and Pace we  
5 are announcing today is a first and notable step  
6 in further developing new mobility options for our  
7 riders that explicitly promote bike usage as it  
8 connects to transit.

9 With this initiative, registered Ventra  
10 users who enroll in this promotion will receive a  
11 \$5 credit for Divvy bikes and scooters. This is  
12 an exciting initiative for CTA and sets us on a  
13 path to a new frontier of options for our riders.

14 Also, I'd like to note that April is World  
15 Autism Acceptance Month. And in honor of this,  
16 CTA's rail system is serving as a platform for  
17 connection and community awareness.

18 For the second year in a row, we have  
19 partnered with the Autism Transit Project, a  
20 nonprofit whose mission is to spread acceptance  
21 and awareness that people with autism are worthy  
22 and valuable parts of our society; different,  
23 perhaps, but no less.

24 Through this partnership, 19 local youth

1 and young adults who share a deep love for transit  
2 were given the opportunity to record some of our  
3 general public announcements reminding riders to  
4 stand behind the blue tactile edge, reminding  
5 others that mobile devices can be used to pay to  
6 ride. These announcements and more are now  
7 playing at stations across our eight rail lines.

8 I am proud that CTA is a part of this  
9 growing national movement, which includes transit  
10 agencies like MTA New York, WMATA in D.C., Bart in  
11 San Francisco, and New Jersey Transit.

12 Together, we are highlighting the special  
13 affinity many autistic youth have for trains. By  
14 sharing their voices on our system, we aren't just  
15 making announcements. We are making our system  
16 more inclusive, more welcoming, and more connected  
17 for every rider.

18 And, in closing, I am proud to announce  
19 that the Women's Transportation Seminar Greater  
20 Chicago Chapter has selected CTA as its 2026  
21 employer of the year.

22 Each year, WTS employer of the year award  
23 is awarded to an organization that has enhanced  
24 the transportation industry through its commitment

1 to excellence in quality, that has an outstanding  
2 record of affirmative action in hiring and  
3 promotion at all employment levels, that supports  
4 continuing education of its employees through  
5 education, organizations, and development  
6 opportunities, and that encourages women, students  
7 to enter the transportation field through  
8 internship opportunities.

9 I am particularly proud about of this  
10 award because CTA has strong representation among  
11 women at our agency from the front lines to  
12 administration to senior leadership and all points  
13 in between. WTS champions the advancement of  
14 women in transportation, a quality that our great  
15 organization shares.

16 As CTA's leader, I could not be more  
17 excited for us to be recognized as an employer  
18 where women successfully pursue career advancement  
19 and achieve at the highest levels. CTA will be  
20 formally recognized at WTS's 2026 awards banquet  
21 later this month, and we've also been nominated  
22 for the WTS international award.

23 That concludes my remarks for today.

24 Thank you, Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

2 I want to commend the team for your  
3 efforts on the revised security enhancement plan.  
4 The plan represents progress, but progress alone  
5 is not the destination.

6 While collaboration with our sister  
7 agencies is a positive development, while overall  
8 crime may be trending lower statistically, we know  
9 that we have a lot of work ahead to build and  
10 sustain public confidence in the safety of our  
11 system.

12 And we heard that loud and clear today for  
13 our public comments as well as the last few  
14 meetings. It's an overwhelming thing. We have  
15 very serious safety, security concerns.

16 Safety remains a central concern for me,  
17 for this Board, and for the Agency. And, as  
18 demonstrated by the public comments today, this is  
19 the primary issue on the minds and hearts of our  
20 riders.

21 As I've said before, when people don't  
22 feel safe on our system, they simply won't ride.  
23 We shared that message this week with Governor  
24 Pritzker, that you can give as many Ventra cards

1 as you'd like to and put as much money on those  
2 cards, but if people don't feel safe, they're not  
3 going to ride our system.

4 All the accolades that we receive as an  
5 agency, all the collaborative efforts that we do  
6 fall short when we hear comments like what we  
7 heard this morning.

8 We have to do better. We must do better.  
9 And I need to see an extraordinary effort from the  
10 leadership of this agency to find ways to do  
11 better in terms of safety and security. It is the  
12 utmost priority of this chairman of this Board.  
13 Trends have to change. And we must do better.

14 To make sure we're staying on track and  
15 holding on to this thing, I believe that we ought  
16 to hold each other accountable.

17 So, every month, I want to receive a  
18 regular update on progress with our security  
19 enhancement plan. I want to know that it's  
20 working. And if it's not working, I want to see  
21 how we can improve it. If we have to make changes  
22 from the top down in order to effectively change  
23 the trend, then I strongly suggest we do that.

24 But when families come before us like what

1 we heard this morning that have been devastated,  
2 then the buck stops here with this Board and with  
3 the leadership of this agency. We must do better  
4 to regain the public confidence.

5 Lastly, I want to congratulate the team on  
6 the restoration of the grant funding for the Red  
7 Line Extension project. I believe you guys did an  
8 extraordinary job on working, coming together to  
9 keep a promise that was given more than 50 years  
10 ago to the far south side.

11 So, again, thank you to you and the entire  
12 team for your continued effort. I know it's hard.  
13 Some of this is not any one person's  
14 responsibility, but we've got to work together to  
15 change the trend.

16 Thank you.

17 At this time, I'd open it up to any other  
18 Board members that want to respond to President  
19 Leerhsen's remarks.

20 DIRECTOR JAKES: I echo the sentiments of  
21 our Chairman, but I especially want to say  
22 congratulations to our legal team and to you for  
23 leading -- leading us through this time of not  
24 backing down from the administration that shall

1 remain nameless. I think that was a bold move.

2 And it was a bold move that paid off.

3 So congratulations on showing that Chicago  
4 grit. Great job.

5 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: May I? Are you done?

6 DIRECTOR JAKES: Oh, yeah. I'm done. I'm  
7 sorry.

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: That's okay. I didn't  
9 know if you were thinking.

10 Two things. Congratulations on that. I  
11 know you didn't stand alone. And I hope you knew  
12 that. The City stood behind that challenge. And  
13 for the City, I am thankful that we were able to  
14 get those funds reapproved and that we challenged.

15 The second one, congratulations on being  
16 an entity recognized for the women leadership. I  
17 think there are a lot of different spaces where  
18 we, as women, continue to have to challenge  
19 ourselves and who we are and what we do and go  
20 beyond what's the norm because we are women.

21 And I really want to thank all of the  
22 individuals in our family, the CTA. It's all of  
23 us, right, it's both men, women, and everyone in  
24 between, so that we can continue to lift each

1 other throughout our industry and across our City.  
2 So I'm glad that's being recognized.

3 The other point, I definitely want to echo  
4 the Chairman's comments on crime. I am glad and I  
5 will stand on our City saying that our crime has  
6 gone down, but it's still unacceptable.

7 I know I worry about walking down the  
8 street, walking with my daughters, waiting for a  
9 bus stop -- at a bus stop and just wondering and  
10 looking around what my environment is to just  
11 wait. And it's scary and it's dangerous. And it  
12 really hinders the opportunity to be able to ride  
13 in a safe, manageable way.

14 I also believe that we cannot do it alone  
15 and that we must, like you said, do more and do  
16 better. And this isn't about the north side or  
17 the south side or the west side or the east side.  
18 It's not about any ward. It's really about our  
19 city.

20 Our entire city continues to face the  
21 challenges that we have of crime. And I really  
22 think we need to continue to advance that work.  
23 It's not just on our agency. It's not just on our  
24 leadership. It actually does require a lot more

1 people and a lot more collaborative.

2 So I would like to recommend and ask for a  
3 Raymond Harrison collaborative so that his name is  
4 not forgotten and his family's pain is not  
5 forgotten.

6 And I would like to request for us to lead  
7 an effort with the CTA, the Mayor's Office, the  
8 Governor's Office, the Chicago Police Department,  
9 the Chicago Park District, the unions, and  
10 nonprofit organizations to come together and  
11 really think about what we're doing together  
12 around crime, specifically in our system, but  
13 across. Because this isn't just about our system.  
14 This is a whole network of systems that need to be  
15 enhanced and worked on.

16 And this has nothing to do with interims  
17 or no interims or permanent people or not. And we  
18 really need to make this sustainable.

19 So I would ask that we bring these  
20 entities together and really think in small steps  
21 and big steps to make a difference together.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Absolutely.  
23 Thank you, Director, for sharing that.

24 There is a level of coordination happening

1 already. And we can absolutely more formalize it  
2 in the memory of Mr. Harrison.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: And as the Chairman  
4 mentioned, we have to do more. And not just our  
5 agency, we all have to do more. And we all need  
6 to come into those spaces with a whole lot more  
7 open mind and readiness to move on things.

8 I know we can all talk and we can all  
9 convene and, yes, we had a meeting, but I think we  
10 really need to take action on the things that we  
11 need to do. And short terms and big terms will  
12 all make a huge difference.

13 Thank you.

14 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So I wanted to, of  
15 course, acknowledge the heaviness of today's  
16 public comment and acknowledge that, as my  
17 colleagues mentioned, we need to do better. And  
18 appreciate you extending condolences to the  
19 family.

20 I was sitting here and reflecting on the  
21 fact that I've been now two years on the board and  
22 there hasn't been a single month, I think, that  
23 somebody has not been either killed and/or  
24 seriously harmed in our system or a victim of a

1 violent crime.

2           And I feel that we have as a city and as a  
3 country normalized that in a way that sometimes we  
4 forget the basics of how traumatic and how  
5 impossible that should be, and, yet, here, it has  
6 become normalized. And there's a lot of systemic  
7 issues behind it. But I want us to keep reminding  
8 ourselves, this is not normal. This is not normal  
9 stuff. This shouldn't be happening. This doesn't  
10 happen in other countries and other systems, you  
11 know?

12           And the cognitive dissonance or the  
13 distance between reading what the mission of this  
14 agency is, which is to deliver quality, affordable  
15 transit services that link people, jobs, and  
16 communities, the distance from this to what you  
17 all are being called to do is huge.

18           Because you are called to be -- when I say  
19 you-all, I mean the workers of the organization,  
20 the leadership -- grief counselors, social service  
21 providers, supportive housing experts, helping the  
22 homeless, violence interrupters. You're to be  
23 also a law enforcement agency. You're supposed to  
24 provide first aid to people who have overdoses in

1 the system.

2 This is a lot you're carrying that is not  
3 what you should be doing, but you are. And it's a  
4 lot of work. And we haven't had a conversation as  
5 to what would it take to fill that gap because I  
6 feel we've been doing this incrementally.

7 So every time there's a crisis, we do  
8 something for it. And then something else happens  
9 and we -- and we've never sat and discussed as a  
10 city that CTA and our transit system is doing way  
11 more than what the mission is than doing that.

12 And, of course, sometimes you're going to be  
13 failing at it. Because that's not what your  
14 expertise is here.

15 So, with that said, I wanted to  
16 congratulate you and the legal team for the  
17 victory with the lawsuit. And I wanted to commend  
18 not only the outcome, but the process it followed,  
19 included outreach and communications with the most  
20 effective stakeholders, community organizations,  
21 and contractors. It's not just what you do, it's  
22 how you do it that makes a difference.

23 And, unfortunately, although we have  
24 surmounted and passed that one obstacle, the

1 deeper problem is still there. And the deeper  
2 problem is the federal agencies that are supposed  
3 to oversee, that are supposed to fund, that are  
4 supposed to support public transit are breaking  
5 the law. And they're doing that knowing that  
6 they're harming the most vulnerable people for  
7 political purposes. That hasn't changed. That  
8 one battle was won. That, I don't think has  
9 changed.

10           And I want to acknowledge that in addition  
11 to all these other jobs that you all have to do  
12 and do better, being overseen and funded by a  
13 government that you cannot trust is an uncharted  
14 territory. And I encourage everybody to keep that  
15 in mind as we move forward with this effort.

16           On customer satisfaction, I want to be  
17 optimistic on the trends, but I want to be  
18 cautious for three reasons. One is that the  
19 sample of people who respond to the survey is not  
20 fully representative of the diversity of our  
21 ridership, so there is value in some -- in that  
22 data, but I wouldn't take data to be all that we  
23 need to receive feedback from.

24           The other reason is that, you know, our

1 union leaders, including rail and bus, are still  
2 passing along serious concerns about their members  
3 personal safety and, as we saw today, our riders  
4 still have that very much present.

5 And, in particular, there are several  
6 stubborn indicators that have been negative for a  
7 very, ery long time. And two of them that keep  
8 popping as completely unacceptable are the  
9 cleanliness of the trains and the safety inside  
10 the train cars. That keeps being at 50 percent or  
11 less. And that is just not acceptable over that  
12 amount of time.

13 So two things are true at the same time.  
14 And I want to make sure that they're clear. Your  
15 approach, Nora, to safety and customer service is  
16 producing positive results. It is palpable,  
17 people see that. And, also, the experience of  
18 riding a train or waiting for one, especially in  
19 subway stations and especially after hours, is not  
20 acceptable. It's very, very scary.

21 So I'm, again, asking the agency to try an  
22 all hands on deck approach at a few train stations  
23 that have high ridership and, also, high rates of  
24 incidents, such as Clark and Lake. That's one.

1           And when I say all hands on deck, I mean  
2 not just CTA departments coming together and  
3 breaking silos. But I'm talking about your  
4 contractors, CPD, city agencies, nonprofit  
5 organizations, business community that have  
6 interest also in safety.

7           And I know that we cannot solve all these  
8 problems all at once and everywhere, but what if  
9 we selected a few higher ridership stations, let's  
10 say one in the north and south and the west sides  
11 and one downtown, and went all in. And what if we  
12 did a whole surge of resources for everything; for  
13 security, for customer experience, for cleaning,  
14 for all of that.

15           So I'm going to put it out there. I've  
16 been mentioning this for a while. And I think,  
17 again, the systemic reasons and causes and roots  
18 of why we are in the state of this array we cannot  
19 tackle, but I think we can do that more targeted  
20 approach and start there.

21           And I want to put in a positive note. I  
22 want to celebrate the collaboration between CDOT  
23 and CTA on Divvy, on Better Streets For Buses, on  
24 green improvements. These are not easy

1 collaborations. And, again, I want to point out,  
2 this shouldn't be that complicated. But, again,  
3 we live in a city and a system that is not normal.  
4 You know, this collaboration should be easy and,  
5 yet, it took multiple years for the staff to get  
6 it done. But I want to today celebrate it.

7 And I want to make sure that they become  
8 the foundation for something bigger and better  
9 with CDOT and other agencies so we can deliver the  
10 excellent experience for transit riders not only  
11 when they take the train, when they take the bus,  
12 but, also, when they're talking to and walking  
13 from and they're waiting for, that's what it takes  
14 to create a system that works.

15 So that's -- that's all from me.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you,  
17 Director, for all those ideas and that feedback.  
18 We will work on those.

19 Certainly, the intention of a lot of this  
20 work on the stations is to illustrate what  
21 investment in stations can bring in terms of  
22 greenery, in terms of upkeep, but your thought of  
23 making it kind of coordinated and targeted so that  
24 people always have in mind what an ideal situation

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1 looks like is an important one. So, thanks.

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

3 Our next order of business is the approval  
4 of the minutes of the regular board meeting from  
5 March 11th, 2026.

6 May I have a motion to approved.

7 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

9 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
10 Requejo, seconded Director Ortiz that the minutes  
11 from March 11th, 2026 be approved as submitted.

12 We'll take a roll call vote.

13 Director Requejo.

14 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

16 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

20 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item on the  
23 agenda is executive session.

24 Attorney Baker, it's my understanding that

1 today we have an executive session.

2 MS. BAKER: That's correct, Chairman  
3 Barclay. There will be an executive session today  
4 pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS  
5 120 sections 2(c), 11, and 21.

6 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a  
7 motion to recess into executive session for the  
8 reasons stated by counsel.

9 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

10 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

11 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
12 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz that the Board  
13 will recess into executive counsel -- executive  
14 session for the reasons stated by counsel.

15 We'll take a roll call vote.

16 Director Requejo.

17 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

23 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

1 (Whereupon, the Board entered into  
2 executive session.)

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a  
4 motion to return to open session.

5 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

7 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
8 Requejo and seconded by Director Ortiz that the  
9 Board return to open session.

10 We'll take a roll call vote.

11 Director Requejo.

12 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

14 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

16 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

18 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

20 MS. BAKER: In item 6A, the Board reviewed  
21 the closed session meeting minutes for March 11th,  
22 2026.

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I please have a  
24 motion to approve the closed session minutes from

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1 March 11th, 2026?

2 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

4 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
5 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz that the  
6 closed session minutes from March 11th, 2026, be  
7 approved.

8 We'll take a roll call vote.

9 Director Requejo.

10 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

12 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

16 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address

19 Board agenda item 7 --

20 MS. GREENLEE: Number 6.

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Number 6. I'm sorry.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Board matters.

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes. Board matters.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, we do

1 have one Board matter. And that is to approve a  
2 resolution of appreciation to Veronica Alanis.  
3 And Veronica Alanis is here. I think you should  
4 come and sit at the table one more time.

5 MS. ALANIS: Good afternoon, Directors.

6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Good afternoon. Glad  
7 you're here.

8 DIRECTOR JAKES: A resolution of  
9 appreciation to Veronica -- how do you pronounce  
10 your last name?

11 MS. ALANIS: Alanis.

12 DIRECTOR JAKES: Alanis.

13 Whereas, Veronica Alanis has dedicated 17  
14 years of exemplary service to the Chicago Transit  
15 Authority, demonstrating a deep commitment to an  
16 Authority's mission and its riders;

17 And, whereas, as chief operating officer  
18 of the authority, Veronica Alanis has been  
19 instrumental in the successful implementation of  
20 major agency initiatives, including historic  
21 capital projects, such as the Red and Purple  
22 Modernization project, the 95th Street Terminal  
23 Improvement, and the Red Line Extension;

24 And, whereas, Veronica's leadership as

1 chief operating officer has been critical to  
2 historic milestones for the Authority, including  
3 continuing transit service for riders during the  
4 COVID-19 pandemic, achieving historic operator  
5 hiring numbers to expand service, successful  
6 transit operations during the 2024 Democratic  
7 National Convention, and, most recently, securing  
8 historic levels of funding from the Illinois State  
9 Legislature for transit in the region;

10 And, whereas, in addition to her role as  
11 chief operating officer, throughout her  
12 distinguished tenure, Veronica has served in  
13 numerous senior leadership roles, including chief  
14 of staff, deputy chief of staff, vice president of  
15 real estate and government and community  
16 relations, director of strategic initiatives, and  
17 chief strategy data and technology officer;

18 And, whereas, in each of these roles,  
19 Veronica has brought strategic vision, operational  
20 excellence, and a deep understanding of the  
21 authority, contributing significantly to the  
22 agency's growth, effectiveness, and long-term  
23 success;

24 And, whereas, on the historic Red Line

1 south reconstruction project, Veronica was the  
2 driving force in the development and  
3 implementation in workforce initiatives helping to  
4 ensure broader access, inclusion, and opportunity  
5 in the project's footprint;

6 And, whereas, those initiatives have not  
7 only endured but have expanded in scope and impact  
8 leaving a lasting legacy that continues to shape  
9 the authority's work and values;

10 And, whereas, Veronica's leadership has  
11 spanned four agency presidents providing  
12 continuity, stability, and trusted counsel during  
13 periods of transition and advancement;

14 And, whereas, her dedication,  
15 professionalism, and leadership is acknowledged,  
16 respected and admired by her colleagues, agency  
17 partners, and stakeholders alike.

18 Now, therefore be it resolved that the  
19 Chicago Transit Board hereby expresses its sincere  
20 gratitude to Veronica Alanis for her 17 years of  
21 outstanding service and leadership.

22 And be it further resolved that the Board  
23 commends her on her lasting contributions to the  
24 Chicago Transit Authority and to the communities

1 it serves and extends its best wishes for  
2 continued success and fulfillment in her future  
3 endeavors.

4 Resolution R026 adopted by the Chicago  
5 Transit Board April 8th, 2026, where Lester  
6 Barclay is our Chairman.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. ALANIS: Thank you so much.

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Veronica, before you  
10 go, thank you for your dedicated service and  
11 leadership at CTA.

12 You probably have more institutional  
13 knowledge than most of the people sitting in this  
14 room of this agency. And you were a tremendous  
15 asset to the agency. While you often kept a lower  
16 profile and worked behind the scenes, your impact  
17 on the agency was always both noticeable and  
18 lasting.

19 From shaping policy that strengthened our  
20 workforce development, diversity efforts to  
21 leading complex operations across the system, your  
22 stability and expertise have contributed greatly  
23 to the CTA's success, and that work is deeply  
24 appreciated.

1           On behalf of the Board, I want to thank  
2 you for your service and your professionalism and  
3 your commitment to the agency and the public we  
4 serve.

5           And tell Dorval if he comes and takes  
6 another person from us -- no. Congratulations and  
7 we wish you the best.

8           DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

9           MS. ALANIS: Thank you. I also want to  
10 thank all of you. Thank you for your guidance,  
11 for your perspective, for your insights.

12           I think what's really evident about this  
13 Board is how much you care and how much you're  
14 willing to roll up your sleeves to support this  
15 organization. And I think that we are a better  
16 organization because of all of you.

17           I want to thank Acting President Nora  
18 Leerhsen, who I've worked with for many years.  
19 It's been a pleasure serving with her as the first  
20 woman president and supporting her in some of --  
21 what have been some of the most challenging years  
22 in this organization, and then, obviously, all of  
23 the people I worked with.

24           As was being talked about earlier, it's a

1 team effort. And while, you know, there are still  
2 challenges, this organization has achieved so much  
3 in the time I've been here, and it really is a  
4 testament to the work that everybody puts in day  
5 in and day out.

6 I'll say hands down this organization has  
7 the most talented and dedicated people that I've  
8 ever met. And I will miss them. I will always  
9 have a special place for CTA in my heart. And I  
10 wish you all the very best.

11 I know that the best is yet to come. And  
12 every challenge, this organization has proven that  
13 it can overcome it. And I'm confident that the  
14 future for CTA is bright.

15 So, thank you, again.

16 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Great. I'd also like to  
17 share.

18 You're absolutely correct. We are better  
19 not because of us but because of you. You have  
20 dedicated so many years of your life. And I know  
21 these aren't 9:00 to 5:00 roles. These are  
22 24-hour roles 7 days out of the week. And no one  
23 can quite compensate that kind of commitment in  
24 that kind of role.

1           From a Latina to another Latina, thank you  
2           for you leadership. You're making waves. You're  
3           making space for so many other women out there  
4           looking to see what can be done and what the  
5           limits are, which are none.

6           So thank you for being out there. Thank  
7           you for being a leader, paving paths that may be  
8           had been uncharted, right, whether it was your  
9           role or other roles, right, where women can excel.

10          And just for the agency and the kind of  
11          effort and work and commitment that you've taken  
12          on for 17 years, thank you for all that.

13          Congratulations for your new job. I'm  
14          sure we'll see each other soon and often. But  
15          know that this is home always to you. And thank  
16          you so much for all of your commitment, your work,  
17          your efforts to our agency, but, also to our city.  
18          Because we are part of a beautiful city, and you  
19          make it work.

20          Thank you.

21          DIRECTOR REQUEJO: I want to join also in  
22          the commendation. Because I just realized, when I  
23          found out that you were leaving, that you joined  
24          the agency in a very dark moment, which was the

1 financial crisis of 2008, 2009 and lived through  
2 the whole COVID situation and the fiscal cliff.  
3 And you did all that. Now -- and you're now an  
4 expert in crisis management for sure, so whoever  
5 benefits from that, good for them.

6 And you always leaded with such commitment  
7 to public service. And a lot of you get  
8 appreciated little or nothing on your daily work  
9 and criticized constantly in every possible way.  
10 Most of the times, in an exaggerated way.

11 And people like you, Veronica, are the  
12 reason why people come to me complaining about  
13 leadership at CTA, there is a line that I allow  
14 and then there is a line that is crossed because I  
15 have to correct sometimes. People don't know what  
16 you all do that they don't see and it's keeping  
17 all of this together, and especially those of you  
18 in operations and those of you where the phone  
19 doesn't go off, doesn't turn off ever, right?

20 So I wanted to thank you, acknowledging  
21 especially the time at which you came into the  
22 agency and especially knowing how little  
23 appreciation not within CTA because you guys have  
24 a good, you know, family here, but how little

1 appreciation exists out there of public servants  
2 like you all.

3 So let me -- let's make this a proper  
4 appreciation of Veronica.

5 MS. ALANIS: Thank you so much.

6 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: If I may just  
8 say a little bit -- sorry -- I don't mean to  
9 interrupt. I've had the opportunity to comment at  
10 Veronica at some of her celebrations, but I don't  
11 want to miss another one.

12 She's the kind of person who this type of  
13 recognition is particularly meaningful because she  
14 does not ask for credit or pomp and circumstance,  
15 but she is the backbone of why things get done  
16 here and why they did for 17 years.

17 So resolutions are always nice, but  
18 especially for someone that really deserves a lot  
19 of credit that doesn't always get it and doesn't  
20 ask for it.

21 And I also just want to point out, from  
22 where I sit, the particular support that someone  
23 that supports leaders of this agency brings and  
24 that reference there that she supported four

1 different presidents and I watched a lot of that  
2 happen and then experienced it myself, and it is  
3 the true essence of professionalism and love for  
4 this agency that no matter who is in that chair,  
5 she supports them 100 percent, their vision, 24  
6 hours a day without wavering. And it's quite  
7 moving. And it demands that of everyone around  
8 her.

9           You know, as Steve, my chief of staff  
10 says, Veronica's not complaining, so I can't  
11 complain. And she brings that vibe around. With  
12 grace and poise, she meets every moment and always  
13 makes you feel like you have a rock beside you.  
14 And it is so important for the health of this  
15 agency to have that type of person with you.

16           And the other thing I'd just add that  
17 people may not always see. Veronica has an  
18 incredible political instinct that you might not  
19 realize and a keen political history of this city.

20           And in the halls of Springfield, as I  
21 navigated some very tricky moments, Veronica gave  
22 me really great advice. And she is an asset to  
23 this city in that way. And it's always with  
24 people and serving people in the best way possible

1 in mind.

2 And I just want to thank you for your  
3 service.

4 The last thing I'll say -- and I won't get  
5 too personal -- but there are certain moments that  
6 leaders of this agency share. And it goes  
7 unspoken, but as women in charge with the  
8 experiences and the moments that we shared in an  
9 unspoken way about what that is like, I will  
10 remember for the rest of my life.

11 And I thank you so much for that support.  
12 And can't wait to see what you do next.

13 MS. ALANIS: Thank you so much. Thank  
14 you. I'll miss all of you. And, again, I wish  
15 you the very best. I know that CTA will be a  
16 better agency moving forward. I know it's been  
17 challenging times, but I know, again, the best is  
18 yet to come.

19 So, thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you so much.

21 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you. Can we do a  
22 round of applause again?

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion

1 adopt the resolution of appreciation for Veronica  
2 Alanis.

3 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

5 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
6 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz that the Board  
7 adopt the resolution of appreciation for Veronica  
8 Alanis.

9 We'll take a roll call vote.

10 Director Requejo.

11 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

13 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

17 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
20 business is a report from the Committee on  
21 Strategic Planning and Service Delivery.

22 Director Ortiz.

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. Thank you.

24 The Strategic Planning and Service

1 Delivery Committee met earlier this morning and  
2 approved the June 11, 2025, Committee minutes.

3 The Committee reviewed one ordinance, an  
4 ordinance authorizing the implementation of an  
5 extension of bus route number 10, Museum of  
6 Science & Industry, implementation of yearlong bus  
7 service, and renaming to number 10 Obama  
8 Presidential Center/Museum of Science & Industry  
9 Express.

10 The Committee placed the ordinance on the  
11 omnibus. The Committee approved and recommended  
12 the Board approval of the ordinance.

13 That concludes my report, Chairman  
14 Barclay.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

16 I will now entertain a motion to approve  
17 an ordinance authorizing the implementation of an  
18 extension of bus route number 10, Museum of  
19 Science & Industry, implementation of a yearlong  
20 bus service, and renaming to number 10 Obama  
21 Presidential Center/Museum of Science & Industry  
22 Express.

23 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

24 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

1 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
2 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz to adopt the  
3 ordinance and the omnibus.

4 We'll take a roll call vote.

5 Director Requejo.

6 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

12 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
15 business is a report from the Committee on  
16 Finance, Audit, and Budget.

17 Director Jakes.

18 DIRECTOR JAKES: Mr. Chairman, the  
19 Committee met earlier this morning and approved  
20 the March 11th, 2026, Committee minutes and  
21 reviewed the finance report.

22 The Committee reviewed the following seven  
23 ordinance:

24 Review of an ordinance authorizing an

1 amendment to a copromotional agreement with the  
2 City of Chicago Department of Fleet and Facility  
3 Management.

4 Number two, review of an ordinance  
5 repealing ordinance number 013-63 related to  
6 advertising on Chicago Transit Authority property  
7 and adopting a new advertising policy and  
8 guidelines.

9 Number three, review of an ordinance  
10 authorizing a copromotional trade agreement with  
11 the City of Chicago through its Department of  
12 Cultural Affairs and Special Events for 2026.

13 Number 4, review of an ordinance  
14 authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with  
15 the City of Chicago through its Department of  
16 Transportation for infrastructure improvements.

17 Number five, review of an ordinance  
18 authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with  
19 the City of Chicago through its Department of  
20 Transportation for Land Management and Natural  
21 Resources Services.

22 Number six, review of an ordinance  
23 authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with  
24 various City of Chicago departments to create a

1 bundled fare product with Divvy.

2 Number seven, review of an ordinance to  
3 repeal ordinance 001-66 related to administration  
4 of performance evaluations and to approve adoption  
5 of existing performance evaluation practices.

6 The Committee also reviewed two contracts.  
7 The Committee placed the seven ordinances and two  
8 contracts on the omnibus. The Committee approved  
9 and recommended for Board approval seven  
10 ordinances and two contracts.

11 This concludes the report of the Finance,  
12 Audit, and Budget Committee.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

14 I will now entertain a motion to approve  
15 the omnibus.

16 MS. BAKER: Chairman, just for  
17 clarification for the record that we are deferring  
18 agenda item 10 --

19 DIRECTOR JAKES: Item 10. Yes.

20 MS. BAKER: -- that related to 001-66.

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Okay. Thank you. So  
22 noted.

23 I'll now entertain a motion to approve the  
24 omnibus with that one correction.

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1 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

2 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

3 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
4 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz to approve the  
5 omnibus for the -- that -- as it was submitted by  
6 the Committee on Finance, Audit, and Budget for  
7 Board approval.

8 We'll take a roll call vote.

9 Director Requejo.

10 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

12 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

16 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
19 business would have been the construction report.

20 Do we need a formal motion to defer?

21 MS. GREENLEE: Please.

22 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

24 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director

1 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz to defer the  
2 construction report that was on the agenda for  
3 today.

4 We'll take a roll call vote.

5 Director Requejo.

6 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

12 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our final order of  
15 business is new business.

16 Georgette, is there any new business?

17 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there is  
18 no new business.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Since there's no  
20 further business to come before the Board, may I  
21 have a motion to adjourn the Chicago Transit Board  
22 meeting of April 8th, 2026?

23 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So moved.

24 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
2 Requejo, seconded by Director Ortiz that the  
3 meeting be adjourned.

4 We'll take a roll call vote.

5 Director Requejo.

6 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

12 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: It's 11:52 a.m.

14 The motion passes.

15 (Off the record at 11:52 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, Courtney Petros, Registered Professional Reporter and Certified Shorthand Reporter, the officer before whom the foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given; that said testimony was taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that reading and signing was not requested; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed this 15th day of April, 2026.



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COURTNEY PETROS, RPR, CSR

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