



Office of School Safety & Security

August 1, 2014

Ms. Rousemary Vega  
2132 W Crystal Apt. 1  
Chicago, Illinois 60622

**RE: Violation of Public Participation Guidelines for Conduct at Chicago Board of Education Meetings**

Dear Ms. Vega:

I am writing to notify you that you have forfeited your right of reentry to future Chicago Board of Education meetings until further notice. The Chicago Board of Education is taking this action because of your repeated disruptive behavior at the monthly Board meetings, which occurred most recently at the July 23, 2014 Board meeting.

At the July 23, 2014 Board meeting at approximately 12:40 p.m. while a member of the public was at the podium addressing the Board, you left your seat, went to the front of Board Chambers and began "booing" a Board member and verbally attacking and insulting a Board member by referring to him as a "coward." You were directed to return to your seat and to cease your highly disruptive behavior. You ignored the directive and continued with your personal attacks. At that point, you were asked to leave Board Chambers. You refused to leave; you screamed at security personnel and said that you had signed up to speak and you were not leaving. The person you were with, Jesus Ramos, then began shouting at security personnel and threatening security personnel. Security personnel repeatedly asked you both to leave Board Chambers. Because you both continued to refuse to leave, security personnel physically removed you and Mr. Ramos from Board Chambers.

Your behavior disrupted the speaker, distracted the Board members, staff and other members of the public and resulted in the meeting temporarily coming to a halt. The safety of other members of the public and, indeed, that of security personnel was compromised as a result of your highly charged disruptive behavior, which lasted for approximately five (5) minutes. Security personnel also contacted the Chicago Police Department for their assistance in responding to your behavior and the behavior of Mr. Ramos.

The underlying policy of the Open Meetings Act is to ensure that the public's right to be informed as to the actions of public bodies be unbridged and not impeded. Your actions, unfortunately, impeded the public's ability to enjoy the free exchange of information related to topics on the public agenda of the Board meeting.

You have been warned on several occasions to cease your disruptive behavior. In fact, you have been escorted out of Board Chambers at least three (3) times due to disruptive behavior. Because you have demonstrated a pattern and practice of engaging in disruptive

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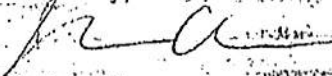
behavior that threatens the orderly and fair progress of the Chicago Board of Education monthly meetings, you have forfeited your right of reentry to future Board meetings. Specifically, Section Seven of the Guidelines provide, in pertinent part, as follows:

*"Courteous, respectful and civil behavior is expected from all speakers and all persons attending a Board meeting. Unsolicited comments and disruptive behavior are prohibited. Individuals who are disruptive may be given a warning and also, may, if necessary, be removed from the meeting. If any individual is removed from a meeting as a result of disruptive behavior, then the individual may forfeit their right of reentry to future Chicago Board of Education meetings."*

Even though you have forfeited your right to attend the monthly Board meetings beginning August, 2014 and until further notice, we are providing you with alternative channels of communication. You may submit written testimony to the Board pursuant to Section Eight of the Guidelines. Additionally, you may seek to meet with Board members via monthly office hours.

For your review, we have enclosed a copy of the Guidelines. If you have any questions, you may contact Cara Kranz, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Board Office, at (773) 553-5732.

Sincerely,

  
Jadine Chou  
Chief Safety and Security Officer

Enclosure

cc: David J. Vitale, President Chicago Board of Education  
Jesse H. Ruiz, Vice President Chicago Board of Education  
Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Chief Executive Officer  
James L. Bebley, General Counsel