

**DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR IN-PERSON HEARINGS OF THE  
LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW  
TO BE HELD BY AUDIO OR VIDEO CONFERENCE**

To: Lake County Board of Review Members  
Board Clerk

The Governor of the State of Illinois has issued a disaster declaration related to public health concerns because of a disaster as defined in Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act and all of Lake County is covered by the disaster area. In light of such disaster declaration, and in an effort to prioritize the health and safety of the BOR members and staff and the public, I hereby determine that:

- (i) The Lake County Board of Review (“BOR”) estimates over 12,500 hearings being scheduled for August 2022 to December 2022. At each hearing, there is the possibility of the following individuals to be present: Two (2) BOR members, an intervenor, township assessor, appellant, appellant’s attorney. The BOR has six (6) hearing rooms, and the rooms are small and do not allow for adequate social distancing should each of these individuals chose to appear. The hearing rooms are very close in proximity to each other. There is a confined waiting area for appellants of upcoming hearings, and there is possibility for a large number of individuals to be waiting in the waiting area without the ability to adequately social distance.
- (ii) The “Omicron” variant of COVID-19 is circulating in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) states, “The Omicron variant spreads more easily than earlier variants of the virus that cause COVID-19, including the Delta variant. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection, regardless of vaccination status or whether or not they have symptoms, can spread the virus to others.” (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>)
- (iii) The volume of hearings and number of individuals who may be present at the hearings presents great difficulty to the BOR to keep track of vaccination status, positive tests, and whether individuals are complying with applicable regulations;
- (iv) The Governor has indicated that social distancing and other precautions have proven critical to slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19;
- (v) Given the circumstances, in-person hearings of the BOR are not practical or prudent because of such disaster;
- (vi) public attendance at the regular in-person hearing locations is NOT feasible due to the disaster because the BOR cannot ensure compliance with guidance included in the Governor’s Executive Orders and from the Illinois Department of Public Health, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) given the nature of the meeting spaces for BOR in-person hearings, including the hearing

rooms and the waiting areas, the volume of hearings to be held, and the number of possible participants.

Therefore, during the pendency of the Governor's current declaration of disaster, requested in-person hearings will be conducted by audio or video conference without the physical presence at the regular in-person hearing locations of any member of the public. A quorum of members will be physically present at the regular in-person hearing locations.

Regularly scheduled BOR meetings and other specially scheduled BOR meetings (not including hearings) will be conducted in-person at the regular meeting location as the BOR will be able to comply with the CDC's, Governor's Executive Orders and Illinois Department of Public Health's guidance.



Lake County Board of Review Chair

Dated as of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022