

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
June 7, 2017

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on June 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order - Chairperson, Lu Pierson, called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 3:05 p.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Dawna Cobb and Stephen Fogelman. Guy Flynn attended by telephone. Also present was Avery Aisenstark Executive Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

Approval of the minutes: Minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting with minor changes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

Chair's report: The Chair followed up with Ms. Lewis of the Comptroller's Office regarding the status of a nominee to fill a vacancy on the Ethics Board, but no nominees were identified.

Director's report

1. **May Ethics Trainings-** Mr. Watulak reported that the trainings have been concluded. About 75-80 people were trained; however, he was not able to complete training of all council members. The deadline for training for council members has passed. Mr. Watulak is working to set up a time to complete the trainings for those who missed it.

2. **Financial Disclosures-** in 2017, 2021 financial disclosure forms were filed electronically, 18 people filed a paper form. This means that 99.11% filed online. As compared to 2016, 2119 or 98.2%

filed on line.

3. Local liquor boards- Mr. Aisenstark has learned that the City's Liquor Board now will be subject to the State Ethics Commission (SEC). This is pursuant to a recent law change in State law this past legislative session. The City's Ethics Code will be amended to reflect this change.

Solicitations

Civic Engagement-This request from Councilman Cohen was approved by a vote of 4-0 pursuant to the City Ethics Code with condition that there be a note in the approval letter stating that the Board is not addressing any State election law issues that the solicitation may raise.

Opinion request-Mr. Flynn indicated that he would have to recuse himself from discussing and voting on this draft opinion. The Board accepted this recusal. Mr. Fogelman questioned whether he had a conflict and the Board concluded he did not.

The Opinion was approved by a vote of 3-0 and 1 abstention.

Upcoming meeting- The next Ethics Board meeting will be July 18 at 3 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.