

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
May 10, 2017

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on May 10, 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 3:13 p.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Dawna Cobb and Stephen Fogelman. Also present was Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

Approval of the minutes: Minutes of the April meeting with minor changes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Chair's report: The Chair reported that she spoke with Danice Lewis of the Comptroller's Office. The Comptroller has identified a potential candidate for the Ethics Board.

Director's report

1. **Board vacancies**-See Chair's report. Also, Mr. Watulak reported that Mr. Aisenstark has discussed the Mayor's vacancy with Chief of Strategic Alliances, Jim Smith. A potential candidate has not yet been identified to Mr. Aisenstark.

2. **Open complaint against KH**-Mr. Watulak spoke with the complainant who said he has the report prepared by the agency in question in response to this person's complaint. This complainant said he will provide it to Mr. Watulak, but it has not yet been received.

3. 2017 Financial disclosure filings- A few employees reported they had not been timely notified of the requirement to file. Mr. Watulak told them to raise the issue with employee's agency. That agency can pay the late fee if appropriate. 17 paper forms were received this year.

4. Updating notices regarding conflicts to new appointees- The notice has gone out to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office proposes to collect the pre-appointment disclosures and pass them along to the agencies.

5. Plaque question- a community group wanted to give the Mayor a plaque for her efforts on behalf of the group. The Ethics regulations do not permit the gift because no plaque could be purchased for less than \$20.00. Mr. Watulak suggested that the Board might want to consider an amendment that would allow for this type of gift. Ethics Board staff will prepare language for an amendment that would address this scenario.

6. Solicitations

Mr. Watulak reported that at the Comptroller's request, the form has been updated to include a signature line for the Comptroller. The Board approved this change.

The following solicitations requests were reviewed.

- **This is Working** -Councilman Cohen's Office-Approved 3-0.
- **Work Baltimore-Human Resources**-Approved 3-0. The Board questioned why HR was tasked with managing this convention.
- **Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs-Safe City Baltimore-** Approved 3-0. Ms. Rodriguez, an employee of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, is also a member of the OSI -Baltimore Leadership council. After

discussing this matter, she was approved to solicit funds in both capacities.

Opinion request-A discussion of this was postponed until the next meeting.

7. Upcoming meeting- The next Ethics Board meeting will be June 7 at 3 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.