

Baltimore City Ethics Board
635 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
March 8, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting

The Ethics Board met on March 8, 2023 at 2:30 pm by conference call.

Call to Order: Chairman Stephan Fogleman called the Ethics Board (“Board”) meeting to order at 2:40 pm with all Board members, a quorum, present.

Review of Schedules and Agenda: Chair Fogleman asked the other Board members if they had any commitments that would conflict with the Board meeting. Both Member Hengerer and Chair Fogleman stated that they were available until 4 pm.

Statement Concerning February’s Administrative Session: Chair Fogleman read the following statement:

Per the Open Meetings Act, the Board discloses that it adjourned its virtual open meeting on February 15, 2023 to enter into an administrative session at approximately 11:04 am. All Board members were present. Members discussed administrative matters including complaints.

The Board may need to close some or all of this meeting to preserve the confidentiality mandated by the Ethics Code or as otherwise authorized by the State Open Meetings Act. Likewise, upon adjournment of the Open Session, the Board may reconvene for an Administrative Session to discuss non-public, administrative functions of the Board.

Approval of Written Minutes for February 15, 2023 Public Meeting: Officer Romo amended the minutes, clarifying that 113 help desk requests were received in January, of which 30 were ethics inquires, 27 were from lobbyists, and 12 were concerning gift solicitation waivers. The Board approved the amended minutes with a vote of 3-0.

Ethics Officer’s Update: Officer Romo updated the Board on the Board staff’s recent work:

- Ethics Training (since last Board meeting)
 - 29 people completed the Ethics Training.
 - **FY23 attendees: 250**
- Help Desk
 - 78¹ help desk requests were received and resolved by the Ethics Board staff in February.
 - 4 help desk requests were from lobbyists.
 - 6 help desk requests were concerning gift solicitations.

¹ Officer Romo excluded two help desk requests from the metrics during the Public Session. The written minutes provide the corrected metrics for help desk requests.

- 31 help desk requests were concerning financial disclosure statements.
 - 27 help desk requests were ethics inquiries.
 - 2 help desk requests were concerning the Ethics Training.
 - 3 help desk requests were administrative (question about deadlines, forms, etc.).
 - 5 help desk requests were not within the Board’s jurisdiction and were referred elsewhere.
- **FY23 requests: 530**

- Complaints (since last Ethics Board meeting)
 - New Complaints: 0
 - **FY23 Complaints: 10**

- Gift Solicitation Waivers (since last Ethics Board meeting)
 - 1 gift solicitation waiver application was submitted to the Ethics Board.
 - 0 gift solicitation waivers expired.
 - Councilmember Cohen’s Office withdrew the Experience Corps gift solicitation waiver.
 - **FY23 Active Waivers: 18**
 - **FY23 Expired Waivers: 13**

- Financial Disclosures
 - On February 23, 2023, Board staff emailed all City filing entities information about this year’s filing deadline and requested that their staff remind filers of the deadline.
 - On March 7, 2023, Board staff sent a filing notice via email to all required financial disclosure filers.

Director’s Update: Director Amberger explained that Board staff will provide a live training for the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

City Council Bill 23-0347 (“Department of Business Licensing and Consumer Protection”) and City Council Bill 23-0353 (“Community Reinvestment and Reparations Commission”): Director Amberger explained that both City Council bills propose creating new City positions and requiring the public servants who hold those positions to file financial disclosure statements. Amberger provided an overview of his draft responses to both bills. The Board approved the responses with a vote of 3-0.

MOED Programs Charitable/Governmental Gift Solicitation Waiver Application, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development: Officer Romo provided an overview of the waiver application. The Board approved the application with a vote of 3-0.

The public meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.