

Baltimore City Ethics Board
635 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
August 11, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

The Ethics Board met on August 11, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. by conference call.

Call to Order: Chairman Stephan Fogleman called the Ethics Board meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. with all members present.

Statement Concerning July's Administrative Session and Potential Administrative Session: Chair Fogleman read the following statement:

Per the Open Meetings Act, the Board discloses that it adjourned its virtual open meeting on July 14, 2021 to enter into an administrative session at approximately 3:27 pm. 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 July 14, 2021 Public Meeting: The Board approved the July 14, 2021 minutes with a vote of 4-0.

Director's Update: Director Hochstetler and Executive Assistant Ford updated the Board on the staff's recent work:

- Ethics Training
 - August online Ethics Training: 122 people enrolled in course
 - 3 online training courses are scheduled for the coming months:
 - September (103 people registered so far)
 - October (35 people registered so far)
 - November (1 person registered so far)

Board Discussion: Board member Sampson recommended that the Ethics Board staff email an ethics trivia or survey to public servants regularly to remind them about the Ethics Law and the material presented in the Ethics Training.

- Help Desk

- 87 help desk requests were received and resolved by the Ethics Board Staff in July.
 - 21 help desk requests were from lobbyists.
 - 6 help desk requests were concerning gift solicitations.
 - 21 help desk requests were concerning financial disclosure statements.
 - 34 help desk requests were ethics inquiries.
 - 1 help desk request was concerning the Ethics Training.
 - 2 help desk requests were administrative (question about deadlines, forms, etc).
 - 2 help desk requests were not within the Board’s jurisdiction and were referred elsewhere.
- 20 help desk requests received so far in August.
- Additional Ethics Requirements
 - Since the last Ethics Board meeting, Board staff have received:
 - 0 Pre-Appointment Disclosures
 - 3 Conflicts Affidavits
 - 5 Notices of Ethics Requirements
- Financial Disclosure Statements:
 - 2,874 required filers.
 - 2,940 filers have submitted financial disclosure statements.
 - 219 individuals who submitted statements were not required to file.
 - 19 outstanding filers.
 - 134 required filers are no longer with the City/on leave and were subtracted from the total of outstanding filers.
- Lobbying
 - All lobbyists (registered prior to July 1, 2021) filed semi-annual lobbying activity reports.
 - 1 lobbyist filed 1 day late. Ethics Board staff charged the lobbyist a \$25 late fee.
- Gift Solicitation Reports (since last Ethics Board meeting)
 - 0 gift solicitation applications submitted to the Ethics Board.
 - 0 gift solicitation campaigns filed final report.
 - 0 gift solicitation campaign filed interim report.

Board Discussion: The Executive Director updated the Board about the 2021 Annual Report. Board staff intend to send the report to the Board for approval in mid-September.

Board Member Sampson expressed his concern about the vacant Board position. Board Member Hengerer recommended that Board staff send Mayor Scott the annual report, which will indicate that there is a vacancy on the Board.

Vice Chair Davis suggested that the Board request a peer audit. Director Hochstetler will determine if the Council of Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) has an auditor or similar entity that could review the Baltimore City Ethics Board.

Vice Chair Davis requested that Ethics Board staff resend the Board members the past Baltimore Immigrant Community Fund gift solicitation application.

Move to Administrative Session: Board members elected to move to an Administrative Session.

The public meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.