Baltimore City Ethics Board
635 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
February 9, 2022

Minutes of the Meeting

The Ethics Board met on February 9, 2022 at 2:30 pm by conference call.

Call to Order: Chairman Stephan Fogleman called the Ethics Board meeting to order at 2:32 pm with a quorum present.

Statement Concerning December'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 January 12, 2022 to enter into an administrative session at approximately 2:48 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.

Governmental/Charitable Gift Solicitation Waiver Application – AFRAM, Department of Recreation & Parks: Nicole Green with the Department of Recreation & Parks provided an overview of the waiver application for the AFRAM festival. Board Member Sampson asked Green if the event is profitable, to which Green responded that all funds received for the event are used for the costs of the event. The Board moved to approve the gift solicitation waiver application with a vote of 4-0.

Approval of Written Minutes for January 12, 2022 Public Meeting: The Board approved the January 12, 2022 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
  - December (106 people completed course)
  - January (29 people enrolled) – DHR has not yet confirmed who completed the course.
  - February (18 enrolled)
  - March (7 people registered so far)

- **Total FY22 attendees: 627 (as of January 1, 2022)**

- Help Desk
  - 109 total help desk requests were received and resolved by Ethics Board staff in January.
  - 28 help desk requests were from lobbyists.
  - 10 help desk requests were concerning gift solicitations.
  - 29 help desk requests were concerning financial disclosure statements.
  - 33 help desk requests were ethics inquiries.
  - 6 help desk requests were concerning the Ethics Training.
  - 0 help desk requests were administrative (question about deadlines, forms, etc).
  - 3 help desk requests were not within the Board's jurisdiction and were referred elsewhere.
  - 52 help desk requests received so far in February.
  - **Total FY22 requests: 627**

- Complaints
  - New (Pending Investigation): 0
  - Open (Under Investigation): 4
  - Closed: 5

- Advisory Opinions
  - Issued: 5
  - Published: 2
  - Pending: 3

- Financial Disclosure Statements:
  - All elected officials filed their 2022 annual statements.
  - Board staff sent an email blast to required financial disclosure filers.
  - 2,650+ required financial disclosure filers in 2022.

- Lobbying
  - 181 lobbyist registrations in 2021 (3 registration terminated prior to June 30, 2021)
  - 177 of 178 annual reports filed
    - 1 report filed a day late
    - 1 outstanding report

- Gift Solicitation Reports (since last Ethics Board meeting)
  - 1 gift solicitation application submitted to the Ethics Board.
  - 1 gift solicitation campaign requested to expand campaign's scope.
  - 2 gift solicitation campaigns filed final reports.

        - 1 past campaign resubmitted final report with fiscal sponsor's signature.
        - 1 past campaign provided supplemental final report.
    - 2 gift solicitation campaigns filed interim reports.
        - Board staff requested supplemental information about fiscal sponsor for 1 campaign's interim report.
        - Fiscal sponsor's signature pending for 1 past interim report.
    - **FY22 Active Campaigns: 9**
    - **FY22 Expired Campaigns: 5**

- Additional Ethics Requirements
    - Since the last Ethics Board meeting, Board staff have received:
    - 0 Pre-Appointment Disclosures
    - 1 Conflicts Affidavit
    - 6[i] Notices of Ethics Requirements

Board Discussion: Vice Chair Davis recommended that the Board follow up with the employee who did not file their 2021 annual financial disclosure statement. The Board agreed to discuss 2021 outstanding financial disclosure filers in administrative session.

Governmental/Charitable Gift Solicitation Waiver Expansion – Destiny's Dream Scholarship, Office of Councilmember Cohen: Director Hochstetler provided an overview of the request. The Board moved to accept the amended solicitation request with a vote of 4-0. Vice Chair Davis requested that the Board notify the Board of Estimates about the expansion.

Board Discussion – Ethics Board Motto: Member Sampson suggested that the Board create an Ethics Board motto. Chair Fogleman proposed that the Board request suggestions from the public. Director Hochstetler suggested reiterating the Ethics Board's purpose as written in the Ethics Law in the motto. Member Hengerer expressed concern about creating a motto that is not widely-approved by the public or does not include text from the Ethics Law. Executive Assistant Ford proposed creating an hashtag for the Board's Twitter account.

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

The public meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

[i] Executive Assistant Ford incorrectly stated during the public meeting that eight Notices of Ethics Requirements were received.