Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on May 8, 2019 at 2:30 pm 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 2:36 p.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Stephan Fogleman, Guy Flynn (arrived after commencement of meeting), Sabrina Turner and Teresa Cummings. Anthony DeFranco, Deputy Ethics Director, was also present.

I. Approval of the minutes:

April minutes approved with corrections: “Votes” instead of vote and delete second to last sentence regarding Flynn vote.

February minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as written was properly moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Chairperson’s report: No report.

III. Director’s report:

Staff is working with BCIT to create online lobbyist registry. Draft legislation needs to be done by June 1. Staff and BCIT have been meeting regularly and should be on target. However, the ransomware attack may cause an issue.

In reference to three Board-related council bills pending:

1. Administration and staff change from inspector general: Support recognizing it will take additional resources after considering fiscal note.

2. Financial disclosure: fixing filers, filing and filings: Chair would like to testify but needs info on how many employees this will affect. Board supports assuming appropriate resources after considering fiscal note.

3. Baltimore City Residency Requirement: Motion to support with amendment: under prohibited act section add an exception that agency who proposes a reorganization may seek pre-approval. It’s not a prohibition if the agency gets prior approval, was properly moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff will prepare the necessary reports.
IV. Solicitations:

a. Office of Civil Rights - Annual Civil Rights Breakfast: motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously;

b. Councilman Cohen - O’Donnell Heights: motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously;

c. Councilman Dorsey - Artist/District grant funding program: motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously;

d. Department of Housing and Community Development - Building a Lead Safe: motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.

Next meeting set for June 5, 2019 at 2:30pm.