

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
December 11, 2019

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on December 11, 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 2:39 p.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Stephan Fogleman, Guy Flynn and Teresa Epps Cummings. Avery Aisenstark, Ethics Director, and Anthony DeFranco, Deputy Ethics Director, were also present.

1. Approval of the minutes: Approval of the minutes of the October 2019 open meeting were approved. LP made a motion to approve. The motion was 2nd and passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes of the November 2019 open meeting were approved. LP made a motion to approve. The motion was 2nd and passed unanimously.

2. Chair’s Report: none

3. Director’s Status Updates: provided by Anthony DeFranco:

a. Lobbying registration website is up and running. It continues to be an effective means of registering and reporting lobbying activity. While the system is fully useable currently, upgrades will be planned moving forward to improve usability.

b. Financial Disclosure Report: Staff has revised the financial disclosure documents to reflect changes in the law. Fliers will have to file on paper while BCIT overhauls the online filing system. The public viewing system will not be impacted.

c. CB 19-0457 {“Elected Officials – Financial Disclosure”} – The bill was amended from original \$20 threshold (reporting of certain payments to a business owned by the official of \$20 or more). As amended, the bill will require the elected official to report only those payments \$1000 or more (or a payment representing a certain percentage of the business’ receipts). Further, only those payments received from persons doing business with the City will have to be reported.

4. Solicitations:

a. Mayor’s Holiday Open House – Board ratified its decision made November 20, 2019 during an open conference call. Motion was made to ratify and approved 3-0.

b. Mayor's Office – AFRAM – Solicitation renewal application was submitted to the Board for its consideration. The Board reviewed the Mayor's Office's prior activity reports and found them incomprehensible and vague. Regardless, the Board approved the application before it 3-0. Staff was directed to urge the Mayor's staff to meet with Board staff to tighten up its submitted reports.

c. As a result of the Mayor's Office's AFRAM report, the Board discussed proposing a new regulation to say that person responsible for accounting must certify the report. Staff to draft.

End Open Meeting session at 3:15pm