

Baltimore City Ethics Board  
626 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
May 2, 2018 (Edited July 11, 2018)

## **Minutes of the Public Session**

The Ethics Board met on May 2, 2018 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Lu Pierson, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board Members Lu Pierson, Stephan Fogleman, Teresa Cummings, Sabrina Johnson Turner and Guy Flynn via telephone. Avery Aisenstark, Executive Director and Thaddeus Watulak were also present. Hon. Andre Davis, City Solicitor, joined the meeting later.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Approval of the minutes from the April 4, 2018 meeting were approved pending edits, by a unanimous vote.

**Chair's Report:** No report.

**Discussion with Hon. Andre Davis regarding Solicitation Exemption Request from Mayor's office:** A lengthy discussion was had regarding the Mayor's request for exemption to be able to raise funds from any and all sources. This appears to be a blanket exemption request, however, the Mayor is willing to report funds received as required by the ethics board. Any funds received would be sent to the foundation. It was decided that a decision regarding this request would be tabled until the board receives a follow-up letter from the Mayor and Mr. Davis.

**Director's Status Updates:** The Director reported regarding the financial disclosure filing season completion. All board members have complied. There have been enforcement issues-waiting on information from HR regarding a cross-check of filings. Therefore, will hold off on late fees.

**Spring Ethics Training:** 70 signed up for the six sessions to be held.

**Proposed Changes to Appointment and Removal Process for the Board's Executive Director:** There will be a meeting tomorrow with Jim Smith. The charter does not mention that the DLR director is also the Director of the Ethics Board. There is a need for transparency and independence. It was suggested that the EB have its own staff, however the EB has no budget. It was also suggested that the EB have the power to appoint the director. Ongoing

discussion.

**Bill Report Requests: CB-18-0199**-Dorsey Legislation- Charter Amendment- Office of the Inspector General. Amendment would put the EB under the control of the OIG. Ongoing discussion (se above).

**CB-18-0223**-Scott Legislation-Equity Assessment Program- No objection but resources could be an issue. Motion to support was properly moved and seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

**CB-18-0230**-Cohen Legislation-Transparency in Lobbying Act which would require quarterly as opposed to annual reporting and the reporting would be available online. However, this change would put an enormous burden on the staff. Board supports however, the Board's main concern is the lack of resources needed to implement this reporting change.

**Upcoming Meeting:** The next board meeting will be held on June 6, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m