

BOARD OF ETHICS SIX MONTH REVIEW

April 2021

A year ago, in April 2020, the City Council voted for Baltimore City's Inspector General to become the Executive Director of the Ethics Board, effective October 10, 2020. This review highlights the Board's activities and enhancements since the OIG assigned dedicated ethics staff.

GUIDANCE

- ☑ 124 requests for substantive ethics advice
- ☑ 4 published formal advisory opinions
- ☑ 193 questions about financial disclosures
- ☑ 115 other questions about lobbying, gift solicitation waivers, training, and forms

TRAINING

- ☑ 8 [trainings](#)
- ☑ 212 attendees, including all newly-elected officials



COMPLAINTS

- ☑ New [online complaint form](#)
- ☑ 9 complaints: 6 investigated, addressed, and closed; 3 no jurisdiction

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

- ☑ [Video introduction](#) to the Ethics Law and Ethics Board
- ☑ Downloadable [Notice of Ethics Requirements](#)

NOTICE OF ETHICS REQUIREMENTS



An electronic pamphlet outlining the ethics requirements for City officials and employees was distributed to Baltimore City boards, commissions, and agencies to be incorporated into the onboarding process.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

With BCIT, the Ethics Board deployed a new [online system](#) for filing financial disclosure statements and published instructions and tutorial videos for filers.

Board of Ethics
Financial Disclosure Site



Tutorial Videos ▶

- ☑ 3,000+ positions required to file in 2021, including hundreds newly identified by ethics staff
- ☑ All elected officials filed by January 30 deadline

CHARITABLE/GOVERNMENTAL SOLICITATION CAMPAIGNS

The Ethics Law prohibits City officials and employees from soliciting or accepting donations from certain people and entities. The Ethics Board may grant a [solicitation waiver](#) for certain charitable/governmental programs.

- ☑ 21 campaigns closed with final reports
- ☑ 4 new campaigns approved
- ☑ 6 active campaigns

LOBBYING

- ☑ 150 annual lobbying activity reports filed in 2020
- ☑ 97 lobbyists have [registered](#) in 2021



ETHICS BOARD WEBSITE

Revamped Ethics Board website, including:

- ☑ Summaries of the Ethics Law and ethics requirements
- ☑ Online complaint form and overview of complaint process
- ☑ Select public complaint summaries
- ☑ Updated forms and training registration
- ☑ Ethics Board member and staff bios
- ☑ Gift acceptance quiz

[HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/)



TWITTER ACCOUNT

Follow [@BaltimoreEthics](https://twitter.com/BaltimoreEthics), the Board's new Twitter account.



ETHICS CHANNEL ...

New [YouTube channel](#):

- Board meeting videos
- Financial disclosure tutorials
- Ethics educational videos



CONTACT THE BOARD

Board staff now have a dedicated phone line and and ethics email.



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