

Stephan W. Fogleman, Chair
Arnold Sampson
John McCauley
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Vacant



Director: J. Christoph Amberger

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ETHICS

April 23, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Alexis Blackmon, Operations Assistant II
Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Alexis.Blackmon@baltimorecity.gov

Re: Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs Charitable/Governmental Gift Solicitation Waiver

Dear Ms. Blackmon,

During the Public Session of its April 10, 2024 meeting, the Ethics Board ("Board") approved your amended application to solicit donations in support of Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs. Approval is contingent on the application's endorsement by the Board of Estimates. *See* R 06.26.1(B)(2). Approval is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) *In general.* The campaign must be conducted in accordance with the standards, terms, and conditions set forth in your application and in Board Regulation 06.26.1, attached for your reference.
 - a. Of specific importance, please note that all solicitations must be directed at a broad range of potential donors, must not specially target controlled donors, and must be conducted so as to avoid any suggestion that contributors might receive special access or favored treatment from any City agency or official. *See* R 06.26.1.
 - (i) To comply with the requirements above, the Board recommends that you use uniform solicitation material that includes a written disclaimer along the following lines: "Important: Your contribution will in no way result in special access or favored treatment from any City agency or official."
- 2) *Prestige of Office Prohibition.* Pursuant to the City Code, Art. 8, §6-36, City employees and officials may not intentionally use the prestige of their City position—including, but not limited to, their City title, image, connections, and resources—for the private gain of the beneficiary of this waiver or of any other¹.
- 3) *Reports.*

¹ Section 6-36 does not prohibit the performance of usual and customary constituent services, without additional compensation.

- a. A Final, Cumulative Report (due within 30 days after all solicitations and receipt of all anticipated donations) must be filed with the Ethics Board on Ethics Form 627.
- b. An Interim Report is due every three months based on your application's stated aggregate value of donations being sought ("between \$150,000 and \$500,000"). Interim reports are due on the following dates:
 - August 5, 2024
 - November 5, 2024
 - February 5, 2025

4) *Expiration.* This approval expires on the date set forth in your application, May 5, 2025. After that date, a new application will be required for any further solicitation efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact Ethics Board staff at ethics@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-7986.

Sincerely,

*Nayshonn
Bond*

Nayshonn Bond
Special Assistant, Ethics Board