

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Monday, August 16, 2010

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on Monday, August 16, at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

- A. Call to Order: Chairwoman Linda Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 10:10 a.m. on Monday, August 16, 2010. In attendance were Board Members Jennifer Burdick, Dawna Cobb, Guy Flynn, Linda Pierson, Director Avery Aisenstark, and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak.
- B. Approval of the agenda: The agenda was amended to include two items under the Director's Report and one item under Section F(2).
- C. Chair's report: Ms. Pierson asked that the minutes reflect the Board's approval on June 28, 2010 of the College Bound Lawyers Campaign request for an exemption subject to the endorsement of the charitable activity by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates as an official governmental program or activity or a City-endorsed charitable functions or activity.
- D. Director's Report
 1. Management, Oversight and Monitoring Modality for Ethics ("MOMME") Log of Activities – Mr. Aisenstark described the program used to create the MOMME. He will regularly update the log.
 2. Training Efforts: Training is ongoing with DOT, with DPW to follow. Notice of training dates to agency officials identifying those employees/positions who need training will be sent shortly.
 3. Mr. Aisenstark advised that he received an inquiry regarding an incomplete disclosure form filed by a City employee and a complaint regarding a public official's endorsement of a candidate for Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. He will conduct a preliminary investigation of both matters and report back to the Board.
- E. Outstanding Complaints / Opinion Requests
 1. Complaint filed by B.V.: Based on a preliminary review of the complaint, the Board voted to 4-0 to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Baltimore City Code Art. 8 § 5-5(a) on the basis that the facts do not merit further proceedings.
 2. Complaint filed by P.L. with the Inspector General: Upon request of the IG, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize the IG to pursue an investigation of this complaint alleging violations of Art. 8 and to direct Mr. Aisenstark to periodically check on the status of the IG's investigation.

3. "Revolving Door" Questions by Sustainability Commission: The Board voted 4-0 to defer this issue and directed Mr. Aisenstark to meet with relevant City officials to learn more about the Sustainability Plan.

F. Charitable, Governmental Solicitations

1. BDC Application for "Baltimore Main Streets": The Board voted 4-0 to approve the solicitation request by BDC for the Baltimore Main Streets project for activities conducted in fiscal year 2011 subject to (i) endorsement by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates (or its designee); (ii) compliance with Board Regulation 06.26 and BDC's submitted application; and (iii) applicable reporting requirements.
2. City Council President's Application to solicit donations to support activities for youth and seniors offered by the Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation and Parks Application: The Board voted 4-0 to approve this application for fiscal year 2011 provided that (i) Part D.IV of the application is amended to state that "Those potential donors who are "controlled donors" (that is, persons described in Article 8, Section 6-26(a)) with respect to the Department of Recreation and Parks, the City Council, or the Board of Estimates will not be targeted or singled-out in any way and will be solicited, if at all, in the same manner as all other potential donors," and Part D.V of the application is amended by deleting the first sentence thereof; (ii) the proposed campaign receives endorsement by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates (or its designee), (iii) compliance with Board Regulation 06.26 and the Department's submitted application, and (iv) applicable reporting requirements.
3. Potential Amendments to Regulations: This was deferred to the September meeting.

G. Other Business

1. Request for Review and Report on Bill 10-483 [Lists of Persons "Doing Business"]: The Board voted 4-0 to support Bill 10-0483 Public Ethics Law-Lists of Persons Doing Business with the City. In addition, the Board recommends the new database should include entities doing business in the current year making it easier to identify existing conflicts of interest.
2. Confirming / Scheduling Next Meeting: The next meeting will be September 16, 2010. Thereafter, meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Office of Legislative Reference.

H. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:25 p.m.