

Baltimore City Ethics Board  
626 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Wednesday, March 10, 2011

### **Minutes of the Public Session**

The Ethics Board met on March 10, 2011 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 10:15 a.m. on March 10, 2011 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Dawna Cobb, Guy Flynn and Peggy Walls. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak.
- B. Approval of the minutes: February minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- C. Chair's report: Ms. Pierson has had some communication with the Mayor's Office about the list of Boards and Commissions that are subject to the Ethics training requirement. It is expected that this information will come to the Board on a rolling basis.
- D. Director's Report:
  - Follow up to Opinion by request from BY regarding an equipment donation. Mr. Aisenstark clarified with the BY's staff that this will be equipment donated to one or more recreation centers.
- E. Status report from Inspector General: There was no report.
- F. A motion to go into closed session was approved by unanimous vote at 10:27 to discuss a potential investigation.
- G. Pending Applications for Solicitations- The request for an exemption from the Southeast Schools Funds with contributions going to the Baltimore City Foundation was approved by unanimous vote with the usual conditions including an end date for the approved exemption.
- H. Director's Update: Proposed ordinance and regulation to conform to requirements of Ch. 277 and State Ethics Commission regulations was sent to the Mayor's Office for review and comment. Mr. Aisenstark will follow up with the Mayor's Office to indicate that this matter is time sensitive.
- I. Other business: As Director of Legislative Reference, Mr. Aisenstark has submitted a bill to correct non-substantive errors contained in past bills. The Board has been asked for its approval of the Corrected Bill 2011. Changes to the law as it applies to the Board were reviewed. The Board unanimously authorized Mr. Aisenstark to convey the Board's approval of these changes.
- J. New business: The Board considered a March 4, 2011 letter from the Mayor's Office inquiring whether the Mayor could donate a "lunch with the Mayor" as a silent auction item to be auctioned off by Planned Parenthood. The Board unanimously agreed that this donation to a non-profit group comprised a constituent service and approved the request after reviewing a relevant State Ethics Commission opinion. The Board also received an

inquiry from the Department of Transportation (DOT) about a demonstration project designed to display bike racks made by different vendors at a City-owned garage. New laws require more bicycle parking. DOT wishes to encourage compliance with this law and the project targets employers and builders. The display will include samples of compliant bikes racks made by a variety of vendors. The Board approved the project provided that DOT rotates the bike racks thereby giving the involved vendors equal opportunity to display their racks. The Board also considered whether the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) may use a particular vendor's flashlight in a photo shoot. The BCFD will not be compensated but will receive flashlights in exchange for participating in the photo shoot. The Board agreed that the BCFD insignia cannot be used in the photo shoot and that the terms of the arrangement comprise an agreement rather than a gift. The Board voted to unanimously to approve this arrangement provided that the terms are set forth in a contract. Mr. Watulak agreed to draft an opinion for the Board's consideration.

- K. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2011 at 10 am.
- L. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.