

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
February 20, 2015

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on February 20, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order - Chairperson, Lu Pierson, called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:40 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Dawna Cobb and Jennifer Burdick. Also present were Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

A. Approval of Minutes from January 2015-The Board approved the January 2015 minutes as amended by a vote of 4-0.¹

B. Chair's Report: Last week, the City Council's Executive Nominations Committee held a hearing on Mr. Flynn and Ms. Pierson's reappointment to the Ethics Board .

C. Director's Status Updates

1. Ongoing investigations- The Inspector General (IG) met with J.P.'s attorney on February 19, 2015. Mr. Aisenstark will contact the IG to learn the status of the meeting and report back to the Board.

2. Reappointments- See Chair's Report.

3. Proposed Legislation-Mr. Aistensark met with mayor's chief of staff to discuss three proposed bills. He advised that the Law Department, City Council and State have all vetted the bills. The chief of staff will discuss them with the Mayor. Mr Aisentark also shared with the Mayor's chief of staff a draft of the bill that repeals

¹ Mr. Flynn arrived during the discussion of the minutes.

the exemption for those employees who file a disclosure from with the State from having to file one with the City. A motion to support proposing this bill was approved 4-0.

4. Mr. Aisenstark shared copies of e-mail inquiries he has received regarding various ethics matters.

5. The Department of Human Resources is drafting a nepotism policy and the IG asked Mr. Aisenstark's opinion. Mr. Aisenstark provided his comments and made it clear that the Board has not commented on the policy.

6. Mr. Aisenstark reported that he had been contacted about a potential conflict that involved pre-appointment advice. No Board action was taken.

D. Preparing for 2015 Financial Disclosure Season

1. **Electronic filing updates**- Mr. Watulak is waiting for confirmation that minor changes to the program have been made. Going forward, the Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT) will not have the budget for these kinds of projects, which means that the Board will have to fund them. Routine programming changes will be handled by MOIT, which will also take over Help desk functions.

2. **Draft paper filing policy**-This policy, approved at the last meeting, was shared with the Board. The policy was approved by a vote of 4-0.

3. **Notifications** - Board staff e-mailed agency heads a reminder that they need to appoint a coordinator. The coordinator creates a list of those who must file financial disclosure forms. Past filers will be e-mailed a reminder to file and advised that they should contact their coordinator and the Help desk if they have any issues

E. Solicitation Requests

1. Police Uniforms-the Board of Estimates approved the request. The Police Department's letter to Ms. Pierson regarding this matter was never received by her. The application did not check a box to indicate the value of the gift. The Board will assume a value of \$150,000, which determines the reporting requirement. The solicitation was approved by a vote of 4-0.

2. Southeast Schools Fund-Councilman Kraft's request was approved by a vote of 4-0.

E. The next Board meeting will be March 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

F. A motion to adjourn was made and approved at 11:10 a.m.