

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
July 8, 2014

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on July 8, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order: In the absence of Chairwoman Linda Pierson, the Board's Secretary, Dawna Cobb, called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum present. Present in person were Board members Dawna Cobb and Jennifer Burdick. Alicia Wilson attended by telephone. Also present was Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

A. Chair's Report:

B. Approval of Minutes from June 2014: The Board approved the minutes with by a vote of 3-0.

C. Director's Status Updates¹

1) **Ongoing investigation:** There was nothing to report.

2) **Financial Disclosure Update:** the period during which financial disclosure forms can be filed without a late fee has passed. About 1225 forms have been timely filed on line. About another 800 have been filed on paper. 40 late filings have been received. Filings received will be compared to the list of those required to file. Mr. Watulak will survey ethics coordinators about their experience with the on-line process. The feedback will enable to Board to consider possible changes to the program.

3) **Legislative Initiatives-** Mr. Aisenstark sent proposed bills to the Inspector General last week, but has not received a response from him.² A motion to proceed with this draft legislation was approved by a vote of 3-0.

¹ Mr. Flynn joined the meeting by phone at this point in the meeting.

² Ms. Wilson left the call during the discussion of this topic and did not participate in the vote to recommend that these drafts be sent to the Mayor. Mr. Flynn did participate in this discussion by phone.

D. Discussion of Draft Procurement Lobbying Regulations-³ The Board will request written comments and will then determine if there will be a need to hold a hearing on those comments. The Board voted 3-0 to make minor changes to the draft. The draft will be posted on the website.

E. Travel Opinion Request by The Employees Retirement System: By a vote of 3-0 the Board instructed Mr. Watulak to respond to the Board's letter dated May 29, 2013 inquiring whether certain transactions are considered gifts. The Board reached a consensus on one of the questions posed by ERS and had some questions about the remaining issues. The Board will invite an ERS representative the opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss its request.

E. Ethics Jurisdiction Discussion: A request has been received from Journey Home about whether it is subject to the City's Ethics Code. The Board agreed it is subject to the Ethics Code. The Board deferred voting whether it subject to the financial disclosure requirement until a meeting when all board members are present to discuss the issue.

F. The next Board meeting will be September 9, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Any solicitation exemption requests will be addressed by e-mail.

G. A motion to adjourn was made an approved at 11:35 a.m.

³ Mr. Flynn had to leave the call during this conversation at the same time that Ms. Pierson joined the meeting by telephone.