

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
May 13, 2014

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on May 13, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order: Chairwoman Linda Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:39 a.m. with a quorum present. Present in person were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board, Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

A. Chair's Report:

- Ms. Pierson reported that three members of the Board attended the Mayor's press conference on April 14, 2014.
- Ms. Pierson and Mr. Flynn have submitted their resumes so that they can be re-appointed to their positions on the Board.
- Ms. Pierson received a call from *Sun* reporter Luke Broadwater seeking a comment on the Board of Estimates approval of funds for Comptroller Pratt to hire outside counsel regarding an investigation being conducted by the Inspector General in response to the Ethics Board Complaint and she had no comment as the matter is confidential.

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

C. Director's Status Updates

- 1) **Ongoing investigation:** There is no update on the JP investigation.
- 2) **Ethics trainings:** AA reported that he is in the spring round of the annual ethics trainings.
- 3) **Status of proposed bills: 12-0142 and 12-0110.** Mr. Aisenstark will confirm the status of 12-0142. The Board agreed not to take any action related to 12-0110. (Mr. Flynn arrived during the discussion of this item.)

D. Solicitation requests

- 1.) Mayor's Commission on Disabilities - This request was approved by a vote 4-0.
- 2.) Youth Commission -This request was approved by a vote of 4-0.
- 3.) Baltimore-Xiamen Sister City Committee-Corporate Membership. This request was approved by a vote of 4-0.
- 4) Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development-Supplier Diversity Week- This request was approved by a vote of 4-0.

E. Online financial disclosure project: Mr. Watulak reported that 872 people are registered in the system. 720 employees have e-filed, 800 have made paper filings. E-filings continue to be processed and it is expected that there will be more e-filers than paper filers. The number of paper filers was a disappointing result and the reasons for this are not known. Mr. Watulak will investigate the basis for the great number of paper filings. He will confer with the State Ethics Commission about whether a fee could be charged for processing paper copies of the forms.

G. Draft Annual Report: The Board approved the report by a vote of 4-0. The formatting for one of the charts needs to be corrected. Following that, the annual report will be posted on the Ethics Board's website.

H. The next Board meeting will be June 10, 2014.

I. A motion to adjourn was made an approved at 11: 01 a.m.