

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on July 12, 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 9:10 a.m. on July, 2011 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb, and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak. Guy Flynn joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.
- B. Approval of the minutes: Minutes for the June 2011 meeting as amended were approved.
- C. Chair's report: There was none.
- D. Director's Report

Status of Bill 11-701 to conform to State Ethics Commission regulations: The staff at the State Ethics Commission provided comments on the City's proposed changes to the City's law. The Board considered and approved by a vote of 4-0 three amendments in response to the State's comments. These included amending the City's Bill to adjust the purpose and enacting clause to reflect these proposed changes, to conform post-employment provisions to the State's regulations and to apply the State standard on gift reporting thresholds. The Board discussed including in its regulations, which will be drafted after the Bill passes, prohibiting gifts of cash or gift cards in any amount.

Status of Board Complaint –Mr. Watulak will meet with the Inspector General's investigator this afternoon. The IG has turned over recorded interviews to Board staff. Whether documents need to be reviewed will be determined after speaking to the investigator.

Pending applications for solicitation exemptions

Mayor's Back to School Rally-The Mayor's office resubmitted this application and amended paragraph V to state: "Businesses and donors who expressed an interest in supporting this event." A motion to approve the request was passed by a vote of 4-0.

- E. **Request for Opinion re: Family employment.** Mr. Aisenstark reported the results of his research on the employment status of adjunct professors at the University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University. Both institutions treat adjunct professors as employees rather than independent contractors. The Board was also advised by legal counsel for Hopkins that the Carey Business School is not an entity distinct from the Johns Hopkins University. A motion to direct staff to prepare an opinion in response to

MPC's query addressing the matters of her family members' employment at JHU's Carey School of Business and a Baltimore City public school was approved by a vote of 4-0.

- F. **Review of Solicitation Reports:** Mr. Watulak provided reports received this year from those agencies that have received solicitation exemptions from the Board. It is not a complete list. Those who have not provided reports state that they have not received any donations.
- G. **Other business**-a bill that amends the law governing the Board of Trustees for the Employee Retirement System and the Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System will be introduced Monday, July 18. Board action is not required at this time.
- H. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2011 at 9:30 a.m..
- I. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.