

Baltimore City Ethics Board  
626 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Tuesday, June 14, 2011

**Minutes of the Public Session**

The Ethics Board met on June 14, 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 June 14, 2011 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb, Jennifer Burdick and Guy Flynn. Also present was Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak. Peggy Walls joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.
- B. Approval of the minutes: Minutes for the May 2011 meeting were approved.
- C. Chair's report: There was none.
- D. Director's Report

**Status of Bill to conform to SEC regulations:** This has been submitted to the City Council. Reports from affected agencies are pending, no hearing date has been set.

**Status of Board complaint** The Board's complaint against Ms. M was sent by certified mail, it has been received. The Ethics Board will now conduct its investigation, which will include confirming facts in the Inspector General's report. Following that, the Board will offer Ms. M the opportunity to appear before the Board before it renders its decision.

**Pending applications for solicitation exemptions**

**Mayor's Back to School Rally-** A motion to approve the request was denied 4-0 because the application does not include a sufficiently broad description of entities and individuals to be solicited. The Mayor's office may resubmit its application.

**International Festival-**Solicitations of donors were made before Ethics Board approval was received. A motion to approve the exemption was made, seconded and unanimously approved, however, the Board's letter will state that it is aware that the solicitation issued before the Board approved and future solicitations will not be approved until the Ethics Board has reviewed and approved the Festival's request.

**Baltimore –Piraeus Sister City solicitation-** Solicitations in support of the Aegean evening gala was unanimously approved by motion on condition that they do not start soliciting until after Board of Estimates approves the request and on the condition that they include the start and end dates in their application.

**Mayor's Commission on Disabilities:** The application was reviewed. The Board noted with approval statements in section V and VI. A motion to approve the application was made and approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Burdick agreed to draft a spread sheet of exemptions approved so the Board can track whether agencies have filed reports required by exemption approvals. She will also begin drafting the annual report.

- E. **Request for Opinion** re: Family employment. Mr. Aisenstark reviewed the issues raised by this request. He reviewed the corporate structure of the Johns Hopkins University to ascertain whether Mr. Clarke's status as an adjunct professor gives him employee or independent contractor status. His research continues on this issue. A motion to table preparing an opinion pending receipt of info in JHU was made and approved by all 5-0 (Ms. Walls was present for this vote).
- F. Website updates. Mr. Watulak reported that agendas and minutes are being posted on the Board's webpage. Opinion 001 about sponsorships not being charitable solicitations has been posted.
- G. The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2011 at 9 a.m..
- H. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.