

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Thursday, January 13, 2011

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on January 13, 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 10:12 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2011 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Dawna Cobb Guy Flynn and Peggy Walls. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak.
- B. Approval of the December minutes was deferred until the February meeting so that corrections could be made.
- C. At or about 10:20 a.m. a motion to go into closed session was approved by unanimous consent for the purposes of discussing an ongoing investigation with the Inspector General, David McClintock. (Md. St. Gov't Code Ann. §10-508(12)). The Board returned to open session at 10:40 a.m. without taking any action. Mr. Flynn recused himself from this discussion.
- D. Elena DiPietro from the City Solicitors Office introduced Victor Tervalá, a new attorney in the Solicitor's Office.
- E. Chair's report: None at this time.
- F. Other business- The Mayor's request for a renewed waiver to permit City employees to promote the 2011 Youth Works campaign was approved by unanimous consent with the standard conditions.
- G. Two matters were deferred pending receipt of further information from The Fire Department in light of their request for permission to meet with Constellation to discuss a major gift in exchange for Constellation's use of the building. The Fire Department was advised to consult with the Board before entering into an agreement with Constellation. The Inquiry from Comptroller Joan Pratt's request for an opinion on whether a conflict of interest exists in the discharge of her duties arises when an employee in her office purchased a tax sale certificate from the Department of Finance was considered. The board concluded that no conflict existed.
- H. Director's Update: State law requires local elective officials to be subject to ethics and disclosure laws equivalent to State law. Mr. Aisenstark has drafted a bill that would bring the City's regulation into compliance with this requirement. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- I. Mr. Aisenstark updated the Board regarding communications with B.C.. No further action was taken by the Board.
- J. Ethics training program-Mr. Aisenstark will ask the Mayor's Office to provide contact information for individuals on a number of boards and commissions so that contact about training can be made.
- K. The "second chance" notice for Ethics Training was sent on December 26, 2010.

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- L. Form Notice to Nominees advising new appointees of their ethics/disclosure obligations was approved by the Board.
- M. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011.
- N. The meeting was adjourned at 11 :57 a.m.

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Prepared by Dawna Cobb

February 8, 2011