

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore MD 21202
October 11, 2012

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on October 11, 2012 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 9:37 a.m. on October 11, 2012 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Guy Flynn, Alicia Wilson and Dawna Cobb. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark, Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak, Paul McGrew, Fox 45, Luke Broadwater, the Baltimore Sun, Reginald Lee, taxpayer.

A. Approval of the minutes-Minutes for September 2012 were approved with minor corrections by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Flynn was absent from the room for this vote.

B. Chair's Report-several issues were raised by the Chair:

1) A new procedure instituted by the Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT) has resulted in a delay in posting Board materials on the Board's website. This concern will be addressed with MOIT along with suggested solutions.

2) The Board's annual report is done and will be distributed.

3) Progress on Department of Finance (DOF) vendor list. DOF's Mr. Henry Raymond has sent the format for the new list to City agencies and the list will be available in January 2013.

C. Director's Status Updates

1. **Report from the IG on the telephone system matter**- A courtesy copy of the report was sent to the Chair. The report does not recommend any actions by the Ethics Board.

2. **Review of Possible Legislation**-The Board discussed proposed legislation that responds to an earlier opinion regarding conflict of interest issues for elected officials. Mr. Aisenstark will draft language to the proposed legislation that allows for exemptions for elected officials to the extent authorized by the Ethics Board. Eligibility for an exemption would be addressed in a Board regulation.

D. Report on Financial Disclosure and Follow Up- Mr. Watulak has followed up with larger agencies about employees who have accumulated late fees. He will later follow up with smaller agencies. The Board has not discussed how it will respond to the Fellow's report's recommendations; however, it has the following goals:

- 1) Simplify the financial disclosure form so it is easier to fill out;
- 2) Post elected officials forms on line;
- 3) Move to an online system for all employees.

The Board will request funds through the regular budget process for an on-line system. A representative of MOIT will be invited to the Board's November meeting to discuss these goals.

E. Solicitations

1. Sisters Academy of Baltimore- The Board approved the Council President's request for the Sisters Academy of Baltimore by a vote of 5-0.

2. Youth Commission- The Board approved this request by a vote of 5-0 , which is scheduled to end December 31, 2012 and this commission will be alerted to the possibility that the request could be approved for a longer period.

F. Executive Session-At 11:10 a.m., a motion to go into executive session to consider ongoing reviews was approved by a vote of 5-0.

The Board voted to return to the open session at 12:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 13 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.