

Baltimore City Ethics Board  
626 City Hall  
Baltimore MD 21202  
Thursday, September 8, 2011

**Minutes of the Public Session**

The Ethics Board met on September 8, 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 call to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:00 a.m. on September 8, 2011 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Guy Flynn, and Dawna Cobb, who participated by telephone. Also present was Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak. Ms. Cobb had to leave the meeting at 10:00 a.m. so those matters on the agenda that required a vote were reviewed first.
- B. Approval of the August 2011 minutes was deferred to the next month.
- C. Chair's report: There was none.
- D. Director's Report:

**Pending Applications for Solicitation –**

**Poe House-** The group has received one check as a donation, that they are holding it because they sought contributions before receiving approval. A motion to approve the solicitation was made, seconded and approved by a 4-0 vote. The letter indicating the Board's approval should remind them to seek approval by both the Ethics Board and the Board of Estimates before they begin any fundraising.

**Main Street-** This group had been advised that it may handle this solicitation through the sponsorship protocols, but they elected to submit this request for approval. A motion to approve solicitation was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**Bnai Zion:** A motion to approve was made, seconded and approved by a 4-0 Vote.

The Board discussed the procedures that have developed that Solicitations come to the Ethics Board before they go to the Board of Estimates. Since we only pass on ethics issues and not whether the program in general is proper, it makes sense that the solicitations seek BOE approval first. It is also difficult to follow up and know whether BOE approval is even being sought. It was agreed that procedures need to be developed to track this and further, whether final reports are being submitted.

**Hearing on B.W. matter:** Ms. Cobb has volunteered to write a letter asking B.W. to contact her to discuss scheduling a hearing. She will conduct a prehearing conference to establish procedures

according to Article 5.6, document discovery, and set dates for the hearing. Avery Aisenstark will present the case. The IG will serve as a witness.

**Bill Reports-**

**Proposed Bills 11-736** (retirement system) **and 11-766** (animal control) were submitted to the Board for comment. A motion to approve letters drafted by Mr. Aisenstark to the City Council regarding these bills were made, seconded and approved by 4-0 vote.

**Review of definition** of “home address” for financial disclosure forms-By a vote of 4-0 the Board approved the following definition: “principal residence” as “a dwelling that is used as a person’s principal or primary home and that is actually occupied by that person for more than 6 months of a 12-month period.”

Request re: IG’s office to consider recommending changes to broaden definition of conflicted parties beyond parties with a relationship with an official’s agency. The Board will request the IG to attend the next meeting to further discuss this inquiry.

Complaints: The Board voted to go into closed session at 9:50 am to discuss a confidential complaint against SM.

(Ms Cobb. Dawna left the meeting during this discussion at 10 am.)