

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
January 8, 2013

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on January 8, 2013 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 9:40 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Dawna Cobb and Guy Flynn. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak. Board member Alicia Wilson arrived after the meeting was called to order.

A. Approval of the minutes-Minutes for December were approved by a vote of 4-0. (Ms. Wilson had not arrived at the time of this vote.)

B. Chair's Report-Ms. Pierson and Mr. Aisenstark continue to work on the Board's response to pending legislation.

C. Director's Status Updates

1. Complaint against J.P. Permission has been received to talk to J.P.'s attorney. A formal request formal request for a meeting will be sent forthwith.

2. Board term expiration: Mr. Flynn's term has been expired. By law he continues to serve in the position until he is reappointed or replaced by a person approved by the City Council. Mr. Aisenstark will call the Mayor's Office to advise them the Board wishes to have Mr. Flynn continue to serve on the Board.

3. Online financial disclosure: MOIT may be able to have online financial disclosure forms for this year's filers if it has the documents needed to post within the next few weeks.

D. Review of Proposed Financial Disclosure Form Changes-A motion was made to send to MOIT (the Mayor's Office of Information Technology) financial disclosure forms, subject to non-substantive changes, for the purpose of posting them on line. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. A motion was made that at a minimum, all department heads, cabinet, elected officials have their financial disclosure forms

available on line. The motion passed 5-0. (Ms. Wilson arrived at the meeting in time for this vote.)

E. Discussion of Pending Ethics Legislation

1. **Council Bill 12-0163**-The Board's letter to the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee requesting a reconsideration of recent amendments to Bill 12-0163 will go out.

2. **Council Bill 12-110**---the Board instructed staff to work with Councilman Henry to resolve the concerns he raised.

F. Council Request for Faster Solicitation Process for Small Donations Benefitting Community Groups -This concern was brought to the Board's attention by Councilman Henry, who reports that Council Members often approach community organizations seeking modest donations, but not in time to invoke the current approval process. Following a discussion of possible solutions, the Board instructed Mr. Watulak to draft a proposed Ethics Board regulation that would allow City Council members to receive small donations from community organizations without seeking prior approval from the Board of Estimates and Ethics Board. Before drafting the regulation, Mr. Watulak will discuss the matter with Councilman Henry.

G. Complaint: by BV: A letter responding to BV will be sent on 1.9.13

At 11:50 a.m. a motion to close the meeting to discuss a complaint was made and approved by a vote of 4-0.

H. Complaint by RJ: A letter responding to RJ will be sent on 1.9.13

The Board returned to open session at which point the meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

The next meeting is February 12 at 9:30 a.m.