

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
July 9, 2013

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on July 9, 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 9:36 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb, Alicia Wilson and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Director Avery Aisenstark. Robert H. Pearre, Jr., Inspector General was an invited guest. Reporter Yvonne Wenger from the *Baltimore Sun* was also present.

A. Introductory Meeting with the New Inspector General: Robert Pearre, Jr., the new Inspector General introduced himself. He reported that his office will hire five new employees/inspectors who will be funded by and assigned to specific agencies. He may bifurcate the office into sections on program evaluation and investigations. (Board member Mr. Guy Flynn arrived during this portion of the meeting.)

B. Approval of the minutes: Minutes for June 2013 as amended were approved by a vote of 5-0.

C. A motion to re-order the agenda: A motion discuss item 6—the late fee waiver-- out of order was approved by a vote of 5-0. By a vote of 5-0 the Board voted to deny the Department of Transportation's request to waive the late fee for its employee and will note in its letter to the agency that in the past when an agency fails to notify an employee about the deadline for filing a financial disclosure form, the agency or department has paid that employee's late fee.

D. A motion to reorder the agenda: A motion to discuss item 8- the opinion on co-habiting partners-- out of order was approved by a vote of 5-0. The Board recommended that the opinion include a definition of cohabitation.

E. Chair's Report: There is no report this month.

F. Director's Status Updates

1. On Line Financial Disclosure Project: MOIT will need to retain contract employees to finish this project.

2. Financial Disclosure Audit: The law clerk assigned to this project from the Department of Law is working on this assignment.

3. Ongoing Investigations: A pending matter requiring investigation will be referred to the Inspector General's Office.

G. Solicitation Requests

a. The Skatepark of Baltimore, Inc.'s request was approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. The Fire Department Golf Tournament: This request was deferred pending receipt of additional information from Mr. Watulak.

H. City Official's Participation in Marketing Events: This was deferred to the next meeting.

I. New informational items: Mr. Aisenstark reported that Bill 110 is scheduled to be cleared from the Council's docket having gone six months without any action on it. The City Council president decides whether it is removed from the calendar. Bill 142 is not likely to go forward.

J. The Board voted 5-0 to go into closed session a personnel matter. The Board returned to open session at noon.

K. A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved at noon. The next meeting is August 13, 2013 at 9:30 a.m..