

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
September 9, 2014

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on September 9, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order Chairperson Linda Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:34 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

A. Approval of Minutes from July 2014: The Board approved the minutes as amended with by a vote of 3-0.

B. Chair's Report: Ms. Pierson will ask the Mayor's Office about increased staff assistance with scanning financial disclosure forms.

C. Director's Status Updates

1) Reintroduction of Legislative Initiatives: Introduction of three bills addressing three conflict of interest matters is imminent. The Inspector General has signed off all three bills.

2) The IG will be following up on the JP matter.

D. Discussion of Draft Procurement Lobbying Regulations-The Board discussed the two letters it received regarding the proposed regulation. We discussed carving out an exception for people who are paid by a client to formally appear on the client's behalf in front of the Board of Estimates on a bid protest or as alternative, to broaden the exception for technical legal issues by deleting the draft qualification in Part D(4) of the proposed regulation. The Board will invite the City Solicitor to attend the next meeting to discuss these alternatives.

E. Solicitation Requests¹

1. Mayor's Commission on Disabilities-approved 4-0
2. Baltimore Development Corporation-the only unusual aspect of it is that it is

¹ Mr. Flynn joined the meeting at this point of the meeting.

looking for a large amount of money, other than that, they will make the same approaches as in the past. Approved 4-0

3. Fire Department-Prevention Fund-The Board approved this request by a vote of 4-0 with the condition that a letter be sent noting its failure to send the Ethics Board the Board of Estimates approval before undertaking solicitations should be sent.

F. Ethics Jurisdictional Issue- The Journey Home, an independent City entity created Mayoral charter, has a mission to end homelessness in Baltimore. The issue before the Board was whether the Journey Home's Board members were subject to the financial disclosure requirement. After a discussion the Board voted 4-0 to advise JH that its board members are not subject to the financial disclosure requirement because it not listed in the Ethics Law as an entity required to file a financial disclosure.

F. Travel Opinion Request by The Employees Retirement System: Ian Berger General Counsel for ERS appeared before the Board to discuss its position on its request to accept funding from entities ERS is doing business with to attend investor meetings. The Board voted 4-0 to maintain its earlier position and instructed Mr. Watulak to advise the ERS board.

G. The next Board meeting will be October 7 at 9:30 a.m.

H. A motion to adjourn was made an approved at 11:35 a.m.