

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
June 12, 2015

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on June 12, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order - Chairperson, Lu Pierson, called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:40 a.m. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Guy Flynn, and Jennifer Burdick. Avery Aisenstark, Director and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board were also present.

A. Approval of Minutes from May-The Board members present deferred the approval of the May 2015 minutes.

B. Chair's Report: No report.

C. Director's Status Updates

1. Outside counsel- Mr. Aisenstark spoke to City Solicitor George Nilson and one of the potential outside counsel attorneys about a reduced fee. The Board will go before the Board of Estimates for approval on June 17.
2. Legislation Introduced-The four bills referenced in the May minutes --15-0498-15-0501 – were introduced on March 23, 2015 and a hearing was held on May 19, 2015. They have passed 3rd reader and awaiting notification of signing by the Mayor. Three of the bills have received previous approval from the State Ethics Commission. The fourth bill will be sent upon approval.
3. State Ethics Commission position on “interest” question was discussed in relation to how the definition that has been interpreted by the Baltimore Ethics Board in the Financial Disclosure Statements.

It was moved by Jennifer Burdick that we amend the Financial Disclosure Form by changing the term “interest” to “financial interest” to be consistent with the current practice. There was a decision to defer action on the motion.

D. 2015 Financial Disclosure Season

1. The Health Department Coordinator notified employees that they had until June 26 instead of April 30. This was an inadvertent error. Ms. Pierson moved that we waive the late fee of the Health Department employees who filed their Financial Disclosure Forms late because of the error in date provided by the coordinator, that we will not request the Health Department to pay the late fees, and that employees will have until the date they were provided to complete the filing. Motion passed 3-0.
2. Numbers of filers-As of this date, 2020 financial disclosures have been electronically filed. 36 paper filings have been received. If the numbers hold up 99% of the forms will have been filed on-line. The Board will issue a press release next month regarding the number of on-line filings.

E. Procure Regulations Authorized by CB 15-0500 – There was a discussion on whether and how this will be enforced and regulated. There was a motion to direct staff to meet with the Inspector General’s office and the Finance Department to formulate regulations to deal with this requirement. Motion passed 3-0.

F. Solicitation Requests

1. Back to School Rally-The Board approved this request for one year by a vote of 3-0.
2. Top Neighborhood Dads -The Board approved this request by a vote of 3-0.

G. Potential Complaint- the Board voted to go into closed session 11:05 a.m. to discuss a potential complaint.

H. The next Board meeting will be July 17 at 9:30 a.m.

I. A motion to adjourn was made and approved at 11:40 a.m.