

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

Minutes of the Public Session

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

Call to Order Lu Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Alicia Wilson and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board. Also present was guest Vu Dang, Assistant Deputy Mayor.

- A. Guest Vu Dang reported on his activities when he was the Chief Service Officer and how the scope of his responsibilities changed from the description he provided two years ago. Although the Step Up Program originally was designed to be a volunteer program, it evolved into a civic engagement activity. One of the successful projects has been “Power in Dirt” wherein corporate funds are raised for mini-grants to tackle vacant lots.
- B. **Approval of Minutes from November 2014:** The Board approved the minutes as amended with by a vote of 3-0.

B. **Chair’s Report:** No report.

C. Director’s Status Updates

- An intern has been provided by MOED who is scanning in Financial Disclosure Forms. The person is scheduled to work three days a week for five hours each day. The Board discussed whether to impose a fee for individuals to file the Financial Disclosure Report on paper rather than completing the report on-line. Staff will check with the State of Maryland Ethics office to see what they do.
- Mr. Aisenstark reported that he attended a “roundtable” discussion with other local ethics groups. Not only will this group be a source of information, the discussions may result in recommendations on legislation.
- The Director did have a meeting with the Mayor’s staff to discuss various Ethics Board matters. The meeting was held with Kaliope Parthemos and Kim Morton. The three bills were discussed and approved. The reappointments of Mr. Flynn and Ms. Pierson are moving forward. It was also learned that there is not one person assigned the responsibility of coordinating appointments to Boards and

Commissions.

- Although the Inspector General (IG) has continued to call, he has not heard back from JP's attorney. Board expressed impatience and asked staff to continue to prod the IG to follow up with JP's attorney.
- There was a discussion whether the Inspector General could refer ethics violations to the Ethics Board. This has been done in the past.

D. Solicitation Requests

- Mayor's Office of Employment Development Youth Works Project - approved by a vote of 3-0

E. Proposed revisions to the Solicitation Reporting Regulations were discussed and reviewed. The Form will be changed to reflect different reporting time frames depending on the amount of funds to be raised by the solicitation. A motion was made to adopt the new form and regulations – approved 3 -0.

F. The next Board meeting will be January 16 at 9:30 a.m.

G. A motion to adjourn was made an approved at 11:30 a.m.