

Baltimore City Ethics Board
635 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
March 10, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

The Ethics Board met on March 10, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. by conference call.

Call to Order: Chairman Stephan Fogleman called the Ethics Board meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. with a quorum present. Only member Hengerer was absent.

Statement Concerning Potential Administrative Session: Chair Fogleman read the following statement:

The Board may need to close some or all of this meeting to preserve the confidentiality mandated by the Ethics Code or as otherwise authorized by the State Open Meetings Act. Likewise, upon adjournment of the Open Session, the Board may reconvene for an Administrative Session to discuss non-public, administrative functions of the Board.

Statement Concerning February's Administrative Session: Director Hochstetler read the following statement:

Per the Open Meetings Act, the Board discloses that it adjourned its virtual open meeting on February 10, 2021 to enter into an administrative session at approximately 3:39 pm. All Board members were present. Members discussed administrative matters including complaints and advisory opinions.

Approval of Written Minutes: The Board approved the January 10, 2021 and February 10, 2021 written minutes with a vote of 3-0.

Director's Update: Director Hochstetler and Executive Assistant Ford updated the Board on the staff's recent work:

- Ethics Training
 - 1 Ethics Training session was held in February with 53 attendees.
 - 2 Ethics Training sessions have been scheduled for the coming months:
 - 3/25/2021 (45 people registered so far)
 - 4/26/2021 (15 people registered so far)
- Help Desk
 - 71 help desk requests were received and resolved by the Ethics Board Staff in February.
 - 7 help desk requests were from lobbyists.
 - 5 help desk requests were concerning gift solicitations.
 - 30 help desk requests were concerning financial disclosure statements.
 - 19 help desk requests were ethics inquiries.

- 5 help desk requests were concerning the Ethics Training.
 - 5 help desk requests were administrative (question about deadlines, forms, etc).
- 29 help desk requests received so far in March.
- Additional Ethics Requirements (Since January)
 - Since the Ethics Notice was distributed, the Ethics Board has received:
 - 14 Conflicts Affidavits
 - 2 Pre-Appointment Disclosure Statements
 - 14 Notices of Ethics Requirements
- Financial Disclosure Statements:
 - Received list of filers from 45 agencies.
- Gift Solicitation Reports
 - 1 gift solicitation application submitted to the Ethics Board.
 - 2 gift solicitation campaigns filed final reports.
 - 2 gift solicitation campaigns have outstanding reports.
 - 1 gift solicitation campaign will resubmit its final report, since its original submission was not cumulative.
- Lobbying
 - The Board received one lobbying activity late fee.
 - 3 lobbyists have not yet paid their late fees.

Board Discussion: Board member Sampson inquired about a budget for the Ethics Board and expressed concern about the continuity of the Ethics Board's support/staff. Members agreed to discuss the issue further in the future if the budget appears to be a problem and resources are not meeting needs. For now, the OIG staffing and resources are adequate.

Sustainability Plan Charitable/Governmental Solicitation Application: The Board unanimously approved the gift solicitation application of the Department of Planning with a 3-0 vote.

Move to Administrative Session: Board members elected to move to an Administrative Session with a 3-0 vote.

The public meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.