

Stephan W. Fogleman, Chair
Arnold Sampson
John McCauley
Noelle Newman
Vacant



Director: J. Christoph Amberger

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ETHICS

December 16th, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Sam Seo, City Forestry Supervisor
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Forestry Division
3101 Shop Road
Baltimore, MD 21217
Samuel.Seo@baltimorecity.gov

Re: TreeBaltimore Charitable/Governmental Gift Solicitation Waiver

Dear Mr. Sam Seo,

At its December 11th, 2024 public meeting, the Ethics Board ("Board") approved your application to solicit donations in support of TreeBaltimore. Approval is contingent on the application's endorsement by the Board of Estimates. *See* R 06.26.1(B)(2). Please refrain from soliciting donations until you have obtained that endorsement

Approval is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) *In general*. The campaign must be conducted in accordance with the standards, terms, and conditions set forth in your application and in Board Regulation 06.26.1, attached for your reference.
- 2) Of specific importance, please note that all solicitations must be directed at a broad range of potential donors, must not specifically target controlled donors, and must be conducted so as to avoid any suggestion that contributors might receive special access or favored treatment from any City agency or official. *See* R 06.26.1.
 - a. To comply with the requirements above, the Board recommends that you use uniform solicitation material that includes a written disclaimer along the following lines:

Baltimore City Board of Ethics

100 N. Holliday St., Suite 635 / Baltimore, MD 21202

ethics@baltimorecity.gov

www.ethics.baltimorecity.gov

410-396-7986

“Important: Your contribution will in no way result in special access or favored treatment from any City agency or official.”

3) Reports

- a. A Final, Cumulative Report (due within 30 days after all solicitations and receipt of all anticipated donations) must be filed with the Ethics Board on Ethics Form 627.
 - b. An Interim Report is due every three months based on your application’s stated aggregate value of donations being sought (“Between \$150,000 and \$500,000”). An Interim report is due on 3/11/2025, 6/11/2025, 9/11/2025, 12/11/2025, 3/11/2026, 6/11/2026, 9/11/2026.
- 4) *Expiration.* This approval expires on the date set forth in your application, November 30^h, 2026. After that date, a new application will be required for any further solicitation efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact Ethics Board staff at ethics@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-7986.

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