

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



Director: J. Christoph Amberger

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ETHICS

November 18, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Vanessa Freund, Chief of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships
Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business, Advocacy and Development
3000 Druid Park Dr.
Suite 3000B
Baltimore, MD 21215
Vanessa.Freund@baltimorecity.gov

Re: SMBA&D Business Resource and Development Program Charitable/Governmental Gift Solicitation Waiver

Dear Chief Freund,

At its November 13, 2024, public meeting, the Ethics Board ("Board") approved your application to solicit donations in support of the SMBA&D Business Resource and Development Program. 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: "Important: Your contribution will in no way result in special access or favored treatment from any City agency or official."
 - b. Additionally, the Board recommends that you use uniform solicitation material that includes a written disclaimer along the following lines: "Important: Failure to provide a contribution will not result in any denial of access to services or negative treatment by 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.

Baltimore City Board of Ethics

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

ethics@baltimorecity.gov

www.ethics.baltimorecity.gov

410-396-7986

An Interim Report is due every three months based on your application's stated aggregate value of donations being sought ("Between \$50,000 and \$150,000"). Interim reports are due on the following dates:

- February 13, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- August 13, 2025
- November 13, 2025
- February 13, 2026
- May 13, 2026
- August 13, 2026
- November 13, 2026
- February 13, 2027
- May 13, 2027
- August 13, 2027

4) *Expiration.* This approval expires on the date set forth in your application, October 1, 2027. 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.

Sincerely,

*Nayshonn
Bond*

Nayshonn Bond,
Ethics Officer, Ethics Board