

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore MD 21202
June 12, 2012

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on June 12, 2012 in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

- A. Call to Order: Chairwoman Linda Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:50 a.m. on June 12, 2012 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Guy Flynn and Dawna Cobb. Ms. Wilson was absent due to a work conflict. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark, Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak, SS and Mayoral Fellow Olesya Vernyi.
- B. Approval of the minutes: April 2012 minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 4-0. The Board did not hold a May meeting for the purpose of conducting Board business.
- C. Chair's report: None.
- D. Discussion of Finance about "Doing business with the City." Henry Raymond, Deputy Director was scheduled to appear but could not attend.
- E. Staff Report:
 - 1. Progress Toward Introduction of Ethics Legislation: The Board has proposed two Bills: one to be sponsored by the Mayor and the other by the City Council President. The proposed Bill regarding lobbyist registration is currently under review by the Mayor's staff. The other Bill would change the standard for all elected officials to include persons doing business with the City not just the City council. Before agreeing to sponsor the bill the Council President would like to discuss an exception to the Board's recent opinion on recusals by City officials.
 - 2. City Website Migration-The Board's website location will change to: www.ethics.baltimorecity.gov.

3. Response to Request to Purchase City Owned Property-Mr. Aisenstark shared his letter to Housing and Community Development. The Board directed staff to formalize the letter as an opinion.
- F. Complaints by R.C. The School System has its own investigators so that addresses the concerns in the complaint against the School System. A motion was made to refer the complaint regarding Jose Rosado to the School System's ethics board. Ms. Burdick recused herself from the discussion because she has a contract with the City School System to conduct EEO investigations. The motion was approved 3-0. The Board has directed Mr. Aisenstark to advise R.C. that the Board finds that his complaint against the police officer does not allege an ethics code violation.
- G. Citizen Suggestions-Ms. Truehart made some suggestions and asked some questions in an e-mail to Mr. Aisenstark dated May 3, 2012. The Board agrees that the date a gift is received should be included on an official's financial disclosure form. The Mayor's fellow will be asked whether her research on best practices requires an employee's next level supervisor be required to review their disclosure forms. Mr. Aisenstark answered Ms. Truehart's question regarding financial disclosure requirements for organizational affiliations. The Board tabled Ms. Truehart's last question regarding the application of the Financial Disclosure Law for quasi-governmental organizations.
- H. Annual Report Draft Review-the Board discussed the drafts.
- I. Other business- Mr. Watulak will inquire about a report of activities from Mr. Vu Dang.
- J. Other business- Ms. Vernyi will review the City Council member's financial disclosure forms.
- K. Other business-Mr. Aisenstark will follow up on status of a complaint against JG.

The Board's next meeting will be July 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.40 a.m.