

Baltimore City Ethics Board  
626 City Hall  
Baltimore MD 21202  
September 11, 2012

**Minutes of the Public Session**

The Ethics Board met on September 11, 2012 in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order: Chairwoman Linda Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:32 a.m. on September 11, 2012 without a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Guy Flynn and Dawna Cobb. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark, Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak, Henry Raymond, Deputy Director of the Finance Department, Michelle Wirzberger, Council President's Office, Lester Davis, Council President's Office, Stephen Janis, Fox 45, Paul McGrew, Fox 45, Luke Broadwater, the Baltimore Sun, Reginald Lee, taxpayer.

The Chair exercised her perogative to reorder the Agenda.

**A. Report from Henry Raymond, Deputy Director of Finance Department.** Mr. Raymond came to report on the list of vendors doing business with the City, which his department is required to prepare for the Ethics Board. He shared a sample page of a new searchalbe list. Mr. Aisenstark requested quaterly updates to the report, which Mr. Raymond said would be possible after the process for compiling the report is completed.

The Board expressed appreciation for this report, which it has been trying to get for some time.

**B. Approval of the minutes:** July and August minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 4-0.

**C. Chair's Report-**There was no report.

**D. Director Status Updates**

1. Yesterday Mr. Aisentstark received a packet of documents related to the Mayor's use of Baltimore Arena tickets. Board members will review the documents and discuss the issue at the October meeting.

2. Public Information Act request by Ms. Kim Truehart. She has requested all documents dealing with the solicitation of funds for the African American festival. Nine documents are responsive to her request and will be sent out within the PIA's time requirements.

**E. Final Report on Financial Disclosure Review-** This report prepared by Mayor's Fellow, Olessa Vernyi was shared with Board members. A Motion to release the report to the press was approved by a vote of 4-0. Ms. Vernyi sent notices to 250 employees who were required to file a financial disclosure form but have not done so. Mr. Watulak will contact the coordinators of the agencies for whom these employees work to inform them that the employees have now accrued late fees.

**F. Solicitation Requests-** Five requests from the Council President's were submitted for Board approval. All requests have been approved by the Board of Estimate and are now presented for the Ethic's Board's review and approval. Requests related to the following events/organizations:

1. Suited to Succeed;
2. Baltimore Neighborhood;
3. Wyman Park Dell;
4. BARCS;
5. Belair Edison.

Ms. Cobb and Ms. Burdick disclosed that they donate to the Friends of Wyman Park Dell. Mr. Aisenstark advised them that this did not prevent them from voting on the issue. All requests were reviewed and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**G. Annual Report-**The Board reviewed the draft annual report and made non-substantive changes. The report will be shared with the press list and on our website. A motion to approved 4-0. The Board expressed appreciation to Ms. Burdick for preparing the report.

**H. New business--**

1. The Mayor's office has approved draft legislation regarding City employees doing business with the agencies that employ them will be proposed on September 24. Mr. Aisenstark will send a copy to the Board when it is introduced.

2. The City School system now has its own ethics panel. Mr. Aisenstark will follow up with the School board to determine if the panel has been approved by the School Board.

The next Board meeting will be October 11 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m..