

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on October 12, at 10 a.m. 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 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. In attendance were Board Members Jennifer Burdick, Dawna Cobb, Linda Pierson, Peggy Walls, Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak.
- B. A motion was made to amend the September minutes to indicate that two Sister City requests for exemption were approved. The motion was approved and the amended minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- C. Chair's report: There is no report this month.
- D. Director's Report
 - (1) Ethics training for City employees is underway. An e-mail about the training was sent to every City employee.
 - (2) City Council Bill 10-483 proposing changes to the definition of "Persons Doing Business with the City" was approved by the Board with some suggested changes at its August 16 meeting. The Director will prepare a draft letter to the Council containing this information.
 - (3) The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is subject to the City's Ethics regulations. A BDC subsidiary-ETC- at an auditor's request, prepared a set of ethics guidelines for the Director's review. Inconsistencies with the City's Conflicts of Interest regulation were identified and shared with BDC and ETC. The *BDC/ETC* guidelines will be corrected to be consistent with the City's conflict of interest regulation.
 - (4) Update on HY complaint. This matter remains under investigation.
 - (5) The Mayor's Office request for the Board's approval to solicit contributions to enable the City to fund a project with Urban Land Institute for the purpose of obtaining advice on addressing challenges to economic development on the City's west side was approved by the Board via e-mail communications on or about September 27, 2010.

Pending Opinion Requests

- 1) Response to the Mayor's request for an opinion on "In-Kind Services." Following the September board meeting, the Director consulted the requestor for more information concerning the request. The Mayor's Office declined to provide additional information at this time. The Director will send the Mayor a letter stating the request as stated is too broad and will re-iterate the rule on gifts.

E. Pending Application for Solicitation

Baltimore-Xiamen Sister City Committee Corporate Membership. This request will be sent back to the requestor for clarification regarding how the contributions will benefit the community. The Board expressed an interest in knowing more about the Sister City Program. The Director will invite the Mayor's staff person responsible for the Sister City program to attend the next board meeting .

Other Business

- (1) The Chair pointed out that Ethics Board forms on the website needs to be updated because the URL has changed. The Director will make these changes.
- (2) The next meeting will be November 8, 2010 at 9 am, City Hall, 6th floor.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:15 a.m.