

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Monday, November 8, 2010

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on November 8, 2010 at 9:15 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 9:15 a.m. on Monday, November 8, 2010 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Dawna Cobb and Guy Flynn. Also present were Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak. Board member Peggy Walls was absent.
- B. A motion was made and carried to go into closed session to discuss an opinion request received by the Director that morning from Councilwoman Belinda Conaway. The meeting returned to open session at 9:50 a.m.
- e. Renee Samuels, special assistant to the Mayor for economic and neighborhood development joined the meeting to answer questions about the Sister Cities program and address Board concerns about the timing of Sister City requests for approval of governmental and charitable solicitations.
- D. Pending Application for Governmental/Charitable Solicitation by Baltimore-Xiamen Sister City Committee Corporate Membership, a motion to approve the application was made. The motion carried 4-0 with the provision that the last two points on the application's addendum listed under "visibility" shall relate solely to the Baltimore-Xiamen Sister Cities program.
- E. Request for an opinion from the Mayor's Office on In Kind Services. Mr. Vu Dang, Chief Service Officer for Baltimore City and George Nilson, City Solicitor, joined the meeting to describe a new volunteer development program, which is funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The goal of the program is to enhance and implement volunteer opportunities in the City with the goal of increasing school attendance, reducing violent, juvenile and property crimes, reducing trash and the number of vacant houses and improving drug addiction services. The issue is whether the Board would approve limited exception for volunteers providing services to the City. Ms. Pierson suggested that a request for an exemption be made.
- F. Board Report on Pending Bill 10-483 "Persons 'Doing Business'" is being drafted.
- G. HV complaint- Mr. Flynn recused himself from this discussion and left the room while the matter was discussed by the remaining board members. Mr. Watulak's investigation of this matter is continuing.
- H. Other Business-Pending Bill 10-615 Promoting Honesty in Lobbying-The Board has no objections to this Bill.
 - 1. A motion to approve minutes for October 2010 passed by unanimous consent.
 - 1. Chair's report: This is no report this month.
- K. Director's Report

- (1) Ethics training for City employees is underway" An e-mail about the training was sent to every City employee.

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 December 14 City Hall, 6th floor at 10am.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:10 p.m.