

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore MD 21202
Tuesday, August 09, 2011

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on August 9, 2011 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 9:45 a.m. on August 9, 2011 with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick, Guy Flynn, and Peggy Wall. Also present was Director Avery Aisenstark and Deputy Director Thaddeus Watulak.
- B. Approval of the minutes: Minutes for the amended June 2011 and July 2011 meetings were approved.
- C. Chair's report: There was none.
- D. Director's Report:

There was a discussion on two anonymous complaints:

- Re M.L. it was decided to allow the Inspector's Office to continue to handle this anonymous complaint.
- Anonymous complaint regarding the employment of R.P. and E.P. was researched by Gladys Gaskins, Director, of the Department of Human Resources, is to be dismissed since the facts do not merit further processing.

Preliminary Investigation Report of Board Complaint Re: Security Contractor – The Board reviewed the Preliminary Report from staff counsel and decided to proceed with the following finding of prima facie violations:

- A violation of 6-6 (1). Prohibited participant
- A violation of 6-27 (1). Acceptance prohibited.
- A violation of 6-36. Prestige of Office

The Board feels that additional investigation is needed on a violation of 6-26 – Solicitation Prohibited.

Pending Application for Solicitation –

President's Office – P.L.A.Y. Campaign – The President's office submitted this application. A Motion to approve the request was passed by a vote of 4-0.

Documentation of Solicitation Applications Approved Between Meetings –

During the interim between the July and August 2011 meetings, a request for Solicitation was made by **the Emerging Technology Centers**. This request was reviewed by the Board and approved.

Opinion Re: Family Employment - The Board reviewed the Draft Opinion and letter regarding the employment of family members. A Motion to approve the letter and Opinion, with minor corrections, was passed by a vote of 4-0.

Complaint by T.C. against MC Re: Judicial Proceedings – the Board reviewed the letter from T.C. regarding the behavior of MC at a judicial proceeding regarding T.C.’s son. Staff reported that a phone call was made to the Judge involved to determine whether the Judge felt the behavior was inappropriate. The Judge stated that the behavior was not inappropriate. It was agreed that Notice would be sent to MC to request a response to the statements made in the letter. It was further agreed to ask the Court for a transcript of the Proceedings.

Other Business –

Status of the Bill 11-736 regarding City Retirement Systems It was agreed that the Board would support this bill. The staff will draft our response.

Home Address issue on the Disclosure Forms - The Board considered the definition of Home Address as used in the Financial Disclosure Form. Although this matter will be further researched, the Board indicated a preference to use the term “Principal Address” rather than “Home Address.”

The Board’s next meeting will be September 8, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned.