

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
January 14, 2014

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on January 14, 2014 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 9:46 a.m. with a quorum present. Present in person were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb, Guy Flynn and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board, Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board, Elena Di Pietro, Chief Solicitor and Varghese Paranilam, IT project manager for the Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT).

A. Approval of the minutes: Minutes for of December 2013, as amended, were approved by a vote of 4-0.

B. Chair's report: There was none.

C. Discussion with the MOIT about Online Financial Disclosure Project: Mr. Paranilam reported that this project is MOIT's highest priority. A number of releases have been made since the last Ethics Board meeting. MOIT is still aiming for a final release in early February so that it can be used by those who need to file their disclosure form.

D. Board of Estimates Lobbying issue: This matter was referred to the Ethics Board to determine whether people who spoke at the Board of Estimates are required to be registered as lobbyists. Deputy City Solicitor, David Ralph, joined the meeting to discuss that the Board of Estimates would be approving a resolution that regulates who may appear before the BOE to protest a procurement award. It is the City Solicitor's position that this will make the protest process more transparent. This Board agreed it would re-review Mr. Aisenstark's December memorandum about this issue and deferred further discussion until the next meeting. Mr. Flynn disclosed that he will have to recuse himself from any decision on this issue given his firm's representation of clients before the BOE.

E. Solicitation Requests-Fire Station renovation- Chief City Solicitor Elena DiPietro described this request as primarily a private sector project. She does not anticipate firefighters making any solicitations, but they want to be covered in

the event they do. A motion to approve the solicitation request through the end of December 2014 was approved by a vote of 4-0.

E. Motion to go into closed session. At 11:25- a motion was made and approved by a vote of 4-0 to close the meeting to discuss pending and new complaints.

F. The Board returned to open session at 12:15 p.m.

G. The next meeting is on February 11, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.