

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
October 7, 2014

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on October 7, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Office of Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order Chairperson Linda Pierson called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:40 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Dawna Cobb and Jennifer Burdick. Also present were Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

A. Approval of Minutes from September 2014: The Board approved the minutes as amended with by a vote of 4-0.¹

B. Chair's Report: No report.

C. Director's Status Updates

1) Reintroduction of Legislative Initiatives: Introduction of three bills addressing three conflict of interest matters is imminent. This is on the agenda for Mr. Aisenstark's meeting with the Mayor's Chief of Staff next week.

2) The Inspector General sent a letter to JP's attorney concerning his status as an attorney and witness in this matter, which has not been responded to within the deadline given. JP's attorney states that he will respond.

D. Discussion of Draft Procurement Lobbying Regulations- The City Solicitor joined the meeting. He and the Board discussed minor changes to the draft regulation part D(4), to broaden the exception for technical legal issues by deleting the last phrase of the section and including specific reference to appearances before the Board of Estimates. Mr. Aisenstark will make the changes and circulate the draft to members of the Ethics Board. If approved the regulation will be posted and shared with everyone who submitted comments to the Board.

E. Handling of Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS-The issue presented to Mr. Aisenstark last month was whether City officials could participate in this fund-raiser for ALS without violating the Ethics Law. The advice given was that it raised issues of prestige of

¹ Mr. Flynn joined the meeting during the discussion of the minutes and participated in the vote.

office. While City officials could accept the challenge, they should avoid challenging others.

G. The next Board meeting will be November 14 at 9:30 a.m.

H. A motion to adjourn was made and approved at 11:25 a.m.