

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore MD 21202
November 13, 2012

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on November 13, 2012 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 9:35 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Linda Pierson, Jennifer Burdick and Guy Flynn. Alicia Wilson was present by telephone. Attempts were made but were unsuccessful to call Dawna Cobb in China. Also present were Executive Director Avery Aisenstark, Deputy Ethics Director Thaddeus Watulak, Stephen Janis and Paul McGrew, Fox 45.

Also present was Chris Tonjes, Chief Information Officer, Mayor's Office of Information Technology.

- A. Approval of the minutes: October 2012 minutes were deferred until next month.
- B. Chair's report: None.
- C. Director's Report:
 1. Budget Request has been made for Online Disclosures for FY 2014. The estimate of costs for designing the program would be approximately \$70,000.
 2. Public Ethics Law: Prohibited Participation (DLR Draft 19Oct12). Alicia Wilson moved to approve the introduction of the bill. Motion approved by the four members present.
 3. The Board reviewed a draft change to the regulations to permit Secondary employment of public officials as Adjunct Faculty at accredited universities or colleges. There was concern expressed about the possibility of these officials using their official time for these activities. It was agreed to add to Section B. (2)...and all other personnel rules and regulations. It was moved by Jennifer Burdick to accept the amendment with the additional phrase. Motion agreed by all four members present.

- D. Chris Tonjes, Chief Information Officer, Mayor's Office of Information Technology, met with the Board to learn more about the requirements to file Financial Disclosure forms and the possibility of employees' opportunity to file this information on-line. There was also a discussion on whether some of the information, such as home address, could or should be blocked from on-line review. What to include or block would be a decision the Board will have to make. Mr. Tonjes said this was a straight forward project and could be done easily. He also stated that there is the capability to capture the identity of anyone who reviewed a particular Disclosure Form.

- E. Solicitation Requests without Board of Estimates endorsements. The Board agreed that all requests must have BOE approval before they may be brought before the Ethics Board.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m.

The Board's next meeting will be December 11, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by: Jennifer Burdick