

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**



During its August 8, 2019 meeting, the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) voted 4-0 to approve a Negotiated Disposition in Case # 19-0011-P (*In re Jack Evans*).

Board Member Melissa Tucker recused herself and did not participate in the Board's deliberation or vote.

This case relates to two emails sent on January 14, 2015 and January 31, 2018, respectively, in which Councilmember Evans (the Respondent) sought employment with two law firms practicing in the metro Washington, DC region. In both instances, emails were sent from the official District email account assigned to the Respondent's Chief of Staff to local law firms with attached proposals outlining Respondent's business plans.

On March 19, 2019, the Respondent was reprimanded by the Council of the District of Columbia (Council) in connection with those two emails for directing a Council employee to use government time and resources for purposes other than official Council business, and for using the prestige of the office for his private financial gain. The Respondent voted in favor of that Resolution.

Under the Negotiated Disposition in this matter, the Board has imposed a \$20,000.00 fine against the Respondent for his violations of the Code of Conduct in connection with the events of January 14, 2015 and January 31, 2018, including using Council time or government resources for purposes other than official business or other government-approved or sponsored activities; requesting his Chief of Staff to perform during regular working hours personal services on his behalf not related to her official government functions and activities; and knowingly using the prestige of his office or public position for his private gain.

The Respondent admitted in the Negotiated Disposition that he understood the nature of the violations of the provisions of the Code of Conduct identified above by OGE, for which OGE believes substantial evidence exists showing that Respondent's actions violated the Code of Conduct. The Respondent further voluntarily, knowingly, and understandingly consented to the Board's imposition of the \$20,000.00 fine against him.

This Negotiated Disposition resolves only the specific violations of the Code of Conduct arising from those two emails and does not involve any other allegations against the Respondent, which remains an open OGE investigation. Moreover, this Negotiated Disposition does not bind any other District or federal government agency.

The Respondent acknowledged in his agreement that notwithstanding his Negotiated Disposition, his conduct in connection with those two emails may also subject him to the imposition of civil and/or criminal penalties by other government agencies who are not bound by the terms of his agreement with OGE.