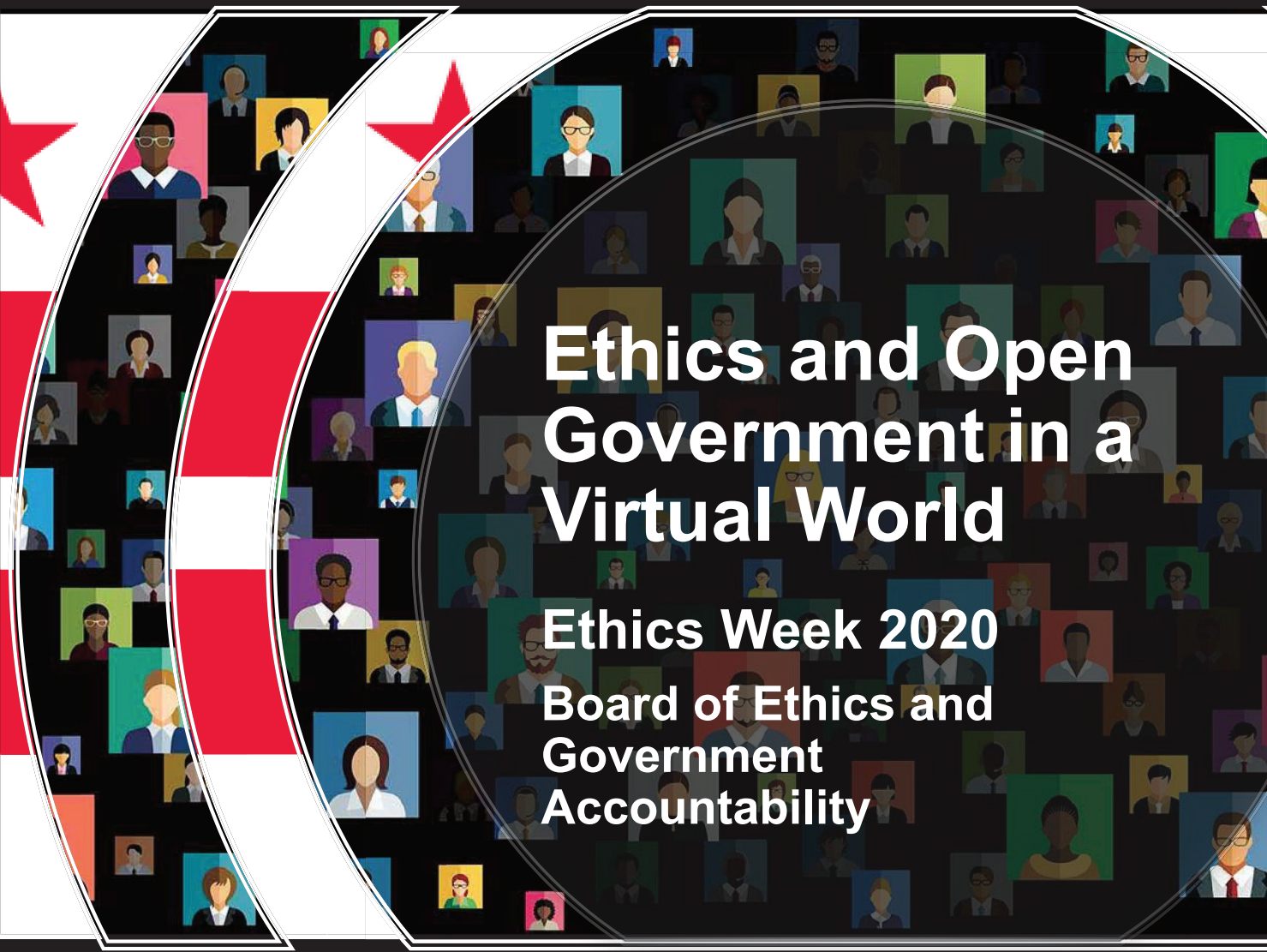




Ethics and Open Government in a Virtual World

Ethics Week 2020
Board of Ethics and
Government
Accountability



Investigations

Agency's mission

Types of investigations

How to file a complaint

Investigative process

Conducting investigations during the pandemic



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

BEGA



OGE



OGE is an office within the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) that investigates allegations of ethical misconduct concerning District government employees and officials.

OGE

In addition to its ethics enforcement role, OGE is also responsible for providing binding ethics advice and training to District employees.

- Oversight of Lobbyist registration and activity.
- Compliance with Financial Disclosure Statement filing requirements.

BEGA Investigative Process

How do I submit a BEGA Complaint?

In-Person

- Complainant comes in and wants to file a Ethics Complaint
- Investigator meets with complainant

Via Mail

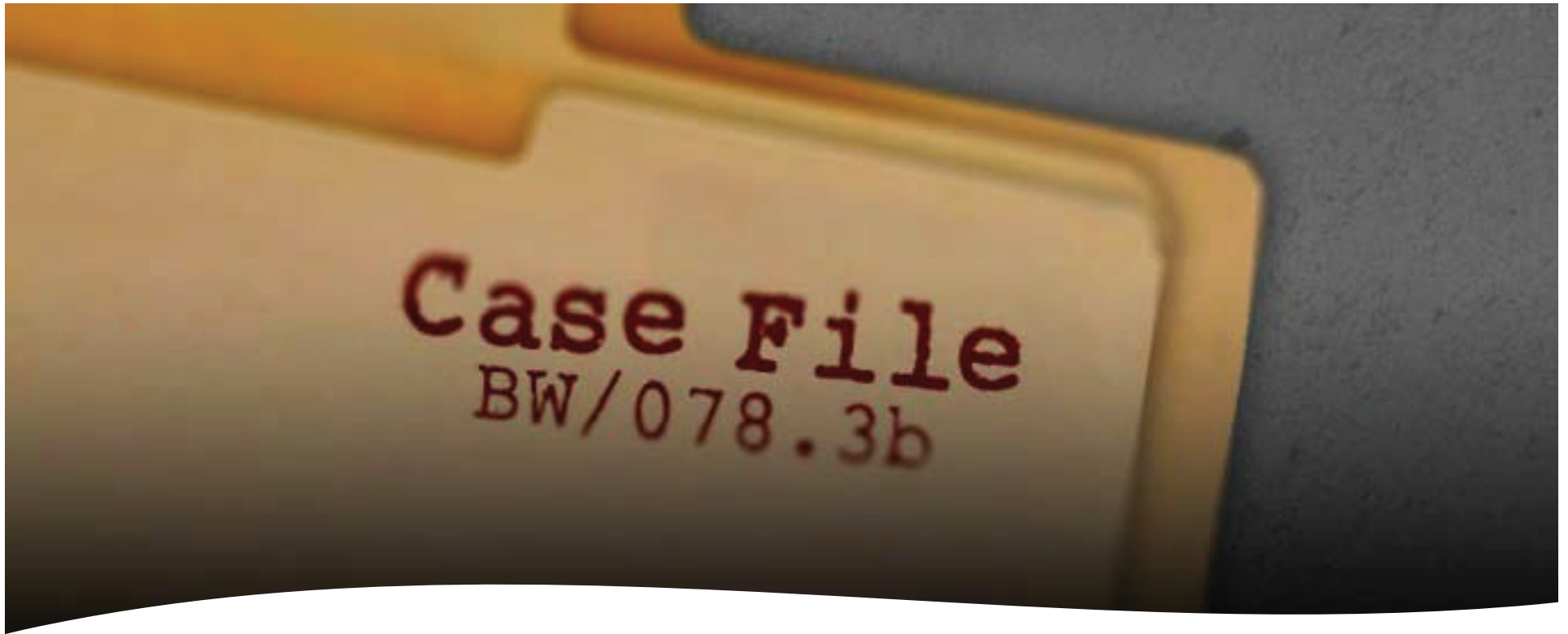
- Hard copy complaints

Web Portal submission or Via E-mail

- BEGA Website complaint link
- E-mail to BEGA@dc.gov

Hotline Phone

202-535-1002



BEGA Investigative Process

- **Case Types:**
 - **Formal**
 - Allegation received with a Sworn Complaint
 - A finding by the OIG, DC Auditor, or court
 - Presented to the Board within 14 days
 - **Preliminary**
 - **Regulatory**
 - FDS and Lobbyist

BEGA Investigative Process

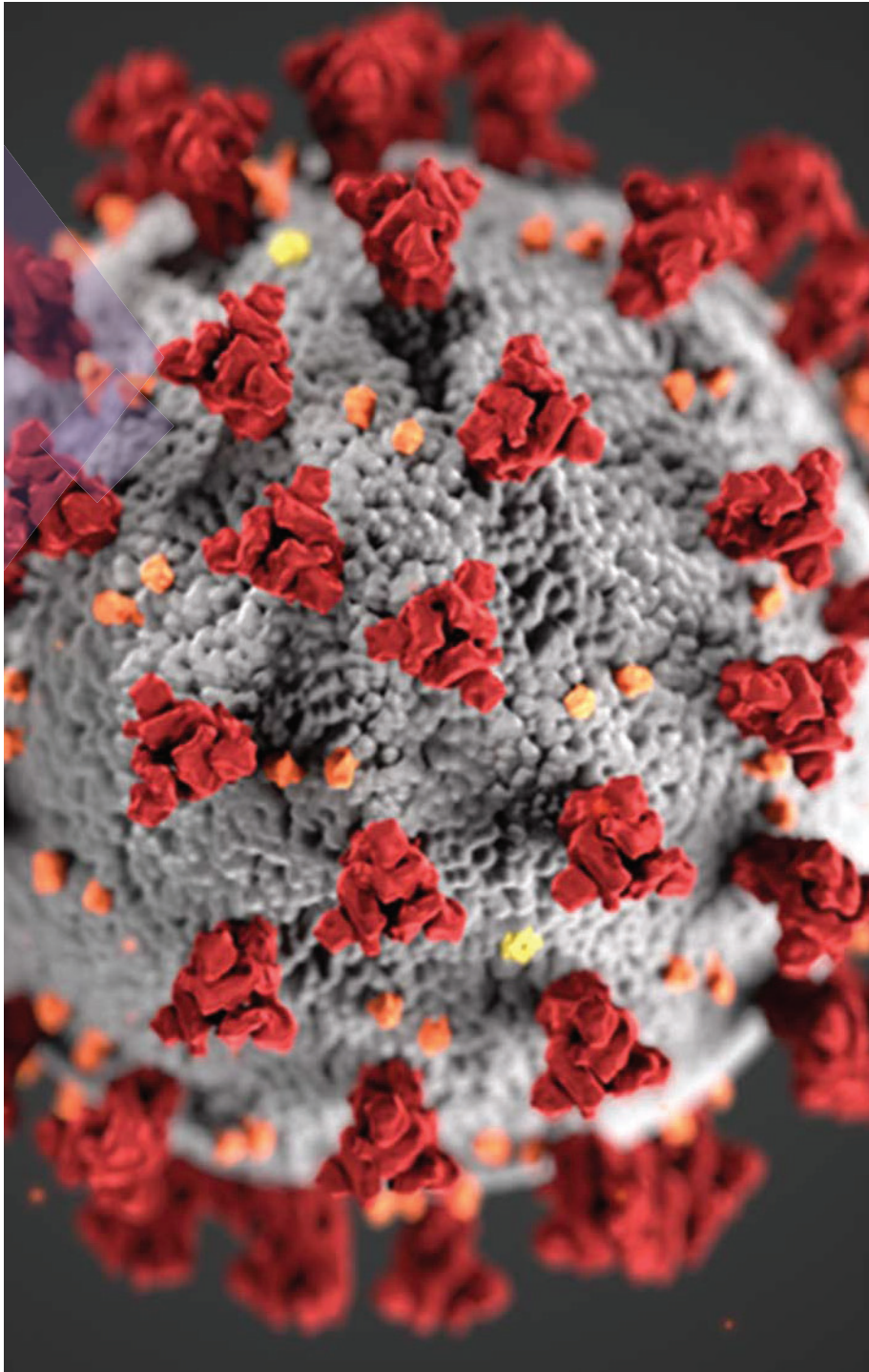


- **Investigation**
 - Conduct Research
 - Employment (PeopleSoft, Email,...)
 - Personal (CLEAR, Lexis, TLO...)
 - Business/Corporate
 - Public and Social Media
 - Determine Agency Coordination
 - Law Enforcement (OIG, OAG, MPD...)
 - Regulatory (DHCF, DCHR, OPRS...)

BEGA Investigative Process

Investigation (continued)

- Information Requests
 - Issue Requests for Assistance/Information
 - Subpoenas
 - Develop Witness Lists
 - Send notifications
 - Schedule Interviews
- Prepare Investigative Summary of Facts
- Recommend Disposition/Proposed Penalty



Changes implemented due to Covid-19

- **In-person interviews**
 - BEGA suspended all in-person interviews amid concerns over the coronavirus outbreak. Eliminated the element of surprise and allowed more time for witnesses and respondents to prepare.
- **Video Conferencing**
 - This has become the preferred method to conduct interviews of witnesses and respondents who may have relevant information for our investigations.
- **Phone Interviews**
 - This is better than no interview at all, but makes it almost impossible to assess attitude, nonverbal cues and potential deception.
- **Obtaining investigation documents**
 - While this process for us has remained normal, it has been slow as employees on situational telework do not have access to non-electronic documents, such as hard copy files may be needed to further our investigation.

BEGA Ethics Investigations

Conclusion

One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW, 830 South
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 481-3411

Hotline: (202) 535-1002

Email: bega@dc.gov