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



IN THE MATTER OF:

Date: July 25, 2025

M Williams

CASE NO: 24-0112-P

<u>ORDER</u>

Pursuant to the authority conferred by D.C. Official Code § 1–1162.13 and pursuant to authorization by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability ("BEGA"), the Director of Government Ethics has conducted a preliminary investigation into allegations that the Respondent, Marc Williams, violated the District Code of Conduct by engaging in a financial conflict of interest in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a), using government time or resources for other than official business in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b), maintaining a financial or economic interest in an outside entity when there was a likelihood that such entity might be involved in an official government action or decision taken or recommended by you in violation of DPM § 1807.1(d), using public office for private gain in violation of DPM § 1808.1. Based on the results of the preliminary investigation, and the Show Cause Hearing held on June 11, 2025, the Director of Government Ethics has determined that the Respondent's actions violated DPM § 1807.1(b).

Statement of the Case

This matter is a preliminary investigation into allegations that Respondent, while employed at the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") as Recreation Assistant at Bald Eagle Recreation Center, formed the Eagle's Nest Youth Association ("ENYA"), a non-profit organization that does business with DPR. It was alleged that Respondent maintained a financial interest in ENYA as the Executive Director, and that, during his District government tour of duty, he used his District government email account and cell phone to conduct business on behalf of ENYA.

Summary of Evidence

The Office of Government Ethics ("OGE") found evidence that Respondent served in various roles at DPR since September 30, 1999. Respondent started ENYA in 2006 and has served as the

Executive Director since that time. On several occasions, Respondent used his D.C. government email account to send messages regarding ENYA matters during his government tour of duty. Specifically, OGE found evidence that, Respondent used his District government email account to send and receive emails to/from parties other than District government employees and stakeholders, regarding funding for ENYA and events that ENYA sponsored.

Conclusions of Law

Based on the evidence of record, I therefore conclude:

- 1. D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(3) states that the Board [of Ethics and Government Accountability] may issue a schedule of fines for violations of [the Code of Conduct], which may be imposed ministerially by the Director of Government Ethics. The Board has so issued that Schedule of Fines.¹
- 2. DPM § 1807.1 provides that a District government employee shall not engage in any outside employment or other activity incompatible with the full and proper discharge of his or her duties and responsibilities. Activities or actions that are not compatible with government employment include, but are not limited to: using government time or resources for other than official business, or government approved or sponsored activities.
- 3. The Respondent violated DPM § 1807.1(b) by using government time or resources to conduct business for ENYA during his tour of duty and using his government email account.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by D.C. Official Code 1162.21 (a)(3), it is hereby ORDERED that Respondent is PUBLICLY REPRIMANADED, due to his violations of the Code of Conduct.

ASHLEY COOKS Director of Government Ethics

7/25/2025 DATE

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order on Marc Williams via email at

¹ See 3 DCMR § 5530, et seq.

NOTICE

Any party adversely affected by this Order may file an appeal with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability at 1030 15th Street N.W., Suite 700 West, Washington, D.C. 20005, or by emailing <u>bega@dc.gov</u>. All such appeals must be received by the Board no later than ten (10) days from the date of this Order, excluding weekends and District government holidays.