

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



IN THE MATTER OF:

Date: September 8, 2025

M [REDACTED] Whittier

CASE NO: 25-0064-P

ORDER

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, M [REDACTED] Whittier, violated the District’s Code of Conduct by using government time or resources for other than official business in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b). **Based on the results of the preliminary investigation, and the Show Cause Hearing held on July 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 was a preliminary investigation into allegations that Respondent, while employed at the Department of Employment Services (“DOES”) as a Workforce Development Specialist, maintained outside employment at Community of Hope during the same tour of duty hours required by DOES.

Summary of Evidence

The Office of Government Ethics (“OGE”) found evidence that Respondent worked for DOES beginning in 2018. Her tour of duty was 8:30-5:00pm and she was provided with a reasonable accommodation of teleworking two days per week from November 2024 until January 2025. Respondent’s LinkedIn page states that she is presently employed at Community of Hope since Jan 2022 as a Housing Specialist. Respondent confirmed her employment at Community of Hope during an interview with an OGE Investigator. On March 27, 2025, an OGE Investigator contacted Stephanie Leonetti, Vice President, Talent Management for Community of Hope. Ms. Leonetti stated that the Respondent began working at Community of Hope in June 2022 and has a hybrid work schedule of 9:00-5:00pm, which included in-office and field work. On that same day, the OGE Investigator identified Respondent’s telephone number on the Community of Hope’s website. The OGE Investigator called the number at approximately 11:30am and the Respondent answered. DOES confirmed that Respondent was on duty at that time. Respondent’s District government timesheet reflects that she reported 8 hours of regular pay for March 27, 2025.

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), on at least March 27, 2025, by working for Community of Hope during her tour of duty.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21 (a)(3), it is hereby **ORDERED** that Respondent is **PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED**, for violating the Code of Conduct.



ASHLEY COOKS
Director of Government Ethics

9/8/2025

DATE

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order on M [REDACTED] Whittier via email at [REDACTED]



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 bega@dc.gov. 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.

¹ See 3 DCMR § 5530, *et seq.*