

MEETING MINUTES

District of Columbia

Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

Monthly Meeting of the Board

January 10, 2013 1:00pm

Suite 830 South – Hearing Room

One Judiciary Square

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm by Chairman Spagnoletti in Board of Ethics Hearing Room at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street NW, 830 South, Washington, DC 20001.
- II. Ascertainment of Quorum
 - a. All Board Members (Robert Spagnoletti, Laura Richards, Deborah Lathen) in attendance
 - i. Quorum ascertained.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Agenda adopted unanimously.
- IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board on December 20, 2010
 - a. Minutes adopted unanimously.
- V. Public Symposium on “Best Practices” in Government Ethics
 - a. Director of Government Ethics enters written testimony of Rob Wechsler of City Ethics, who is not present at the meeting, into the record (attached).
 - b. Witness #1 – David Zvenyach, General Counsel to the D.C. Council
 - i. (see printed testimony attached)
 - c. Witness #2 – Kathleen Clark, Attorney and Law Professor
 - i. From 2011-2012, Ms. Clark provided advice to DC Government on Ethics Act & provided Ethics training.
 - ii. 4 pressing issues for the Board -
 1. Assess Critical Risk
 - a. Where is the critical risk?
 - i. Where the money is.
 2. Prioritize Action
 - a. The Board should exercise discretion when determining matters to pursue.
 - i. The Board should not go after low-level officials.
 3. Financial Disclosure Process
 - a. The Board should use the process as an opportunity to educate the public about gifts and post-employment regulations.

VI. Report by the Director of Government Ethics

- a. Presented by Director Darrin Sobin
 - i. Welcome new staff
 - 1. General Counsel Stacie Pittell
 - 2. Pro-Bono Attorney Yancey Burns
 - ii. OCTO updates
 - iii. Staffing updates
 - iv. Referrals updates
 - v. Advice giving updates

VII. Update on Status of Board Operations

- a. Update on Director of Open Government
- b. Update on Lobbyist registration system
- c. Update on Ethics hotline

VIII. Discussion: Rules Published for Public Comment – Public Comments invited

- a. Witness #1 – David Zvenyach, General Counsel to the D.C. Council
 - i. Concerned with Financial Disclosure
- b. Witness #2 – Michael Sindram, Veteran and Community Activist
 - i. Concerned with digitalization of files

IX. Staffing and Job Announcements

- a. 8 positions –
 - i. Director
 - ii. General Counsel
 - iii. Attorney 1
 - iv. Attorney 2
 - v. Investigator 1
 - vi. Investigator 2
 - vii. Office Manager
 - viii. Receptionist
 - 1. Plus, but separate from the Board Office
 - a. Director of Open Government

X. Financial Disclosure and Lobbyist registration system

- a. Director Sobin provided updates

XI. Adjournment to Private Meeting

- a. Meeting closed at 3:18 pm by Chairman Spagnoletti

XII. Board reconvenes post Private Meeting

- a. Meeting reconvenes at 4:43 pm
 - i. Recessed to discuss –
 - 1. Preliminary investigations
 - 2. Next Board Meeting – Friday, January 18, 2:30 pm

XIII. Final Rulemaking – Sec’s 51-55

- a. Laura Richards motions to approve
- b. Deborah Lathen seconds

i. Board votes

1. 3 l's, unanimously adopted

XIV. Final Adjournment

a. Meeting closed at 4:51 by Chairman Spagnoletti