

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

MEETING MINUTES – March 6, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Ethics and Government Accountability held a hybrid meeting at the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, 1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 700 West, and virtually on February 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Norma Hutcheson and Board members Felice Smith, Darrin Sobin, and Melissa Tucker participated in the meeting.

Members of the public were welcome to attend, and a recording of the meeting will be available on open-dc.gov and BEGA’s YouTube channel.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Ascertainment of Quorum

Four Board members, Chairperson Hutcheson and Board members Felice Smith, Darrin Sobin, and Melissa Tucker were present at the start of the meeting.

III. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of Minutes

The Board members voted unanimously to adopt the agenda. Chairperson Hutcheson and Board members Smith and Tucker voted to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes. Board member Sobin did not vote on the motion to approve the minutes as he was not present at the February meeting.

IV. Report by the Director of Open Government

Good morning, Chairperson Hutcheson, and Members of the Board. I am Niquelle Allen, Director of Open Government. I am pleased to present this report on the activities of the Office of Open Government (“OOG”). Our mission is to ensure that all persons receive full and complete information concerning the affairs of the District of Columbia government and the actions of its officials. Since the last Board meeting, OOG has continued its work to ensure that District of Columbia government’s operations are transparent, open to the public, and promote civic engagement. To that end, OOG has enforced the Open Meetings Act, advised on the Freedom of Information Act’s requirements, and provided training on those transparency laws. OOG has proudly served as advocates for an open and transparent government.

A. Open Meetings Act (“OMA”) and Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) Advice

1. Advisory Opinions

a. Dismissal of OMA Complaint, #OOG-2024-0002

On February 7, 2025, I dismissed a complaint against the Zoning Commission because the allegations in the complaint did not violate the OMA. The complaint alleged that the Zoning Commission failed to provide OMA-compliant notice of its November 9, 2023, meeting. However, OOG's investigation revealed that the meeting was properly published in the D.C. Register. A copy of the dismissal letter has been added to Dropbox.

b. Dismissal of OMA Complaint and Advisory Opinion – Council of the District of Columbia (“Council”), #OOG-2024-0007

On February 12, 2025, I issued an advisory opinion, #OOG-2024-0007, dismissing an OMA complaint regarding the Council's gathering related to the Monumental deal with the District of Columbia. Pursuant to DC Official Code § 2-579, the Director of Open Government is not empowered to bring a lawsuit in DC Superior Court for violations of the OMA respecting the Council. The statute requires the Council “shall adopt its own rules for enforcement related to Council meetings.” The Council, in its rules for Council Period 25 (Period 25), created a category of “gatherings” that are not subject to the OMA. Also, while the Council is subject to the OMA, pursuant to the Period 25 rules, enforcement regarding its own meetings and other “gatherings” resides with that public body. Pursuant to the Period 25 rules, I referred the complaint to the Council, by way of its Office of the General Counsel. I ultimately dismissed the complaint submitted to OOG for lack of jurisdiction. A copy of the advisory opinion has been added to Dropbox.

c. Dismissal of OMA Complaint, #OOG-2025-0051

On February 27, 2025, I dismissed a complaint because I do not have jurisdiction over the Boards and Commissions in the State of Michigan. The dismissal letter provides the statutory basis for the dismissal and includes information for contacting the Michigan state authorities that regulate meetings and the conduct of government officials. A copy of the dismissal letter has been added to Dropbox.

d. D.C. FOIA Advisory Opinion , Executive Office of the Mayor (“EOM”), #OOG-2024-004_AO

On March 4, 2025, I issued an advisory opinion, #OOG-2024-004_AO, in response to a request concerning the issuance of multiple notices of extension by the Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) pertaining to a D.C. FOIA request for specific communications about “the Mayor of the District of Columbia's (the “Mayor”) trip to Dubai for the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) and her visit to Doha, Qatar with the D.C. Chamber of Commerce.” In this instance, EOM improperly invoked extensions in its processing of the requester's D.C. FOIA request. EOM also failed to notify the requester of his appeal rights after the expiration of the 15-day time to respond and the first 10-day extension. I noted that although EOM's FOIA Officer asked the requester to narrow the scope of his request, the time for responding was not tolled because EOM's FOIA Officer made the

request after the time for responding had expired. From a legal standpoint, the issue of EOM's response time is now moot because EOM provided the requested records. The requester appealed to the Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel (MOLC) because the records provided were redacted. The MOLC upheld EOM's decision to redact the records. The requester has not indicated whether he will take additional action. A copy of the advisory opinion is in Dropbox.

2. Informal Advice

Since the last Board meeting, OOG has responded informally, via e-mail, telephone, or teleconference to requests for assistance as follows:

22 requests for OMA advice;
10 requests for FOIA advice; and
12 requests for technical assistance with open-dc.gov.

B. Meeting Monitoring

OOG's staff attends public bodies' meetings, in person and remotely, to ensure compliance with the OMA. They also inspect public bodies' websites and OOG's Central Meeting Calendar for public meeting notices and records. OOG attorneys provide legal advice on OMA compliance and take corrective action, if necessary.

Since the last Board meeting, OOG's legal staff attended fourteen (14) public body meetings. As a result of the monitoring, three (3) corrective measures were communicated. The public bodies failed to post a proper agenda pursuant to the regulations - the agenda was not detailed, or it was absent.

C. Training/Outreach

1. FOIA Training for the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education

On February 7, 2025, I participated in FOIA training for staff members in the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME). I provided basic information on D.C. FOIA and participated in a question-and-answer session, where I answered frequently asked questions concerning FOIA requests.

2. D.C. FOIA Portal Public Comment Session

On February 12, 2025, at 4:00pm, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), in partnership with the Office of Open Government (OOG), hosted a public comment session regarding the new FOIA system powered by GovQA. During the public comment/listening session, opening statements were made by representatives from OCTO and I (on behalf of OOG), there was a video presentation regarding the portal, and the opportunity to provide comments on the new system. OOG's staff attended the session.

3. D. C. “FOIA Basic Training for Beginners”

On February 18, 2025, Attorney Brandon Lewis presented “FOIA Basic Training for Beginners.” The training introduced the basics of D.C. FOIA and provided instructions on performing FOIA Officer duties. This training was the first in OOG’s new monthly FOIA training series, the schedule for which has been published. OOG’s staff and I attended the training virtually.

4. DC Office of Public Records (“OPR”) “Making Reference Request” Training

On February 19, 2025, BEGA’s Records Officer Attorney Joan Lelma attended the Office of Public Records’ (OPR) “Making Reference Request” training facilitated by OPR’s DC Archivist William Branch. The training covered the process for requesting records from the Federal Records Center and DC Archives.

5. Practicing Law Institute (“PLI”) Course: “Records” and GAI: How Will They Get (or Not) Get Along?

On February 25, 2025, I completed this Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Course from the Practicing Law Institute. The faculty discussed the definition of “record” and whether Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)-created information may or may not be a record; laws and regulations that impact GAI as records; creation, retention, and preservation of GAI; possible consequences of failure to comply with laws and regulations or to preserve records; and GAI trends for the foreseeable future and how those trends might affect information governance.

6. Advancing Racial Equity: The Role of Government

On February 26, 2025, I completed the *Advancing Racial Equity: The Role of Government* (AE204/AE204P) training facilitated by the Office of Racial Equity, as part of the District of Columbia Human Resources’ (DCHR) Management Supervisory Service (MSS) Week, February 2025. This training was designed to better equip managers to identify and address issues of racial equity by increasing foundational knowledge of varying types of racism and the mechanisms that have perpetuated racism; deepen discussions on dismantling race inequities; and, build capacity in using racial equity tools that are essential to advancing race equity across departmental policies, programs, and practices - creating a fair and just District Government.

D. Litigation and Legislative Update

1. Litigation

- a. Leslie Richards v. D.C. Finance and Treasury (Case No. 24-CV-0034 (D.C. Court of App.); Case No. 2021-CA-003762-B (Super. Ct.))

I have previously reported on this *pro se* case in which the Plaintiff-Appellant sought information about a disbursement. The Superior Court dismissed the

complaint because the Plaintiff failed to properly serve the District nor state a claim upon which relief could be granted. The requester appealed.

A Motion for Oral Arguments was filed on January 10, 2025. The Court denied the appellant's Motion for Oral Arguments on January 21, 2025. On February 19, 2025, the case was submitted to Associate Judges Beckwith and Howard and Senior Judge Thompson. The matter is currently under advisement and ready to be decided. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

b. Phillips v. District of Columbia (Case No. 1:22-cv-00277-JEB (D.D.C.))

I have previously reported on this case in which Amy Phillips alleged under 42 U.S. Code § 1983 (civil action for deprivation of rights) that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) maintains a "watchlist" targeting certain D.C. FOIA requesters. Phillips' lawsuit is based on information provided by Vendette Parker, who was MPD's Freedom of Information Act officer from October 2017 to January 2020. The 2022 lawsuit was accompanied by a 12-page statement signed by Parker. In her statement, Parker said she was advised of an "unofficial, unwritten policy that required the FOIA officer to notify [former] Chief Newsham ... of any FOIA request originating from the media, certain identified individuals, or requests for certain records." The District denied these allegations.

The Court referred the case to a Magistrate Judge for mediation, which is ongoing. In a February 28, 2025, joint status report, the parties indicated that they are in the process of finalizing a settlement agreement. If the case is not voluntarily dismissed by March 7, 2025, the parties will submit another Joint Status Report. A copy of the Joint Status Report has been added to Dropbox. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

c. Washington Post Company, LLC v. District of Columbia (Case No. 2023-CV-0488 (D.C. Ct. App.); Case No. 2021 CA 002114 B (D.C. Super Ct.))

I have previously reported on this case in which the Washington Post sued the District under D.C. FOIA for certain records relating to the Capitol insurrection. The Superior Court granted the District's Motion for Summary Judgment, and The Post appealed.

On January 24, 2025, the Court ordered the parties to be prepared to discuss, at oral arguments, what, if any, impact the recent commutations, pardons, and dismissals would have on this appeal. Oral arguments were held on February 6, 2025, and the case is currently under advisement. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

d. Gooch v. District (Metropolitan Police Dept.) (Case No. 2023-CAB-002404 (D.C. Super. Ct.))

I have previously reported on this case in which a Requester-Plaintiff sued the District for records "related to his...conviction." The Plaintiff had received

partly redacted records.

The parties previously agreed to work on redactions and the Vaughn Index, providing updates at each status hearing. A status hearing was held on February 13, 2025. The defendant's counsel stated that no updates had occurred. Therefore, the matter was continued to March 28, 2025. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

e. D.C. Open Government Coalition v. District (Case No. 2023-CAB-007251 (D.C. Super. Ct.))

I have previously reported on this case which involves the D.C. Open Government Coalition's (DCOGC) lawsuit against the District seeking an accounting of the backlog of public-records requests submitted through the FOIA Xpress Public Access Link.

The Plaintiff asked the court to set a briefing schedule for Motions for Summary Judgment. The Government opposed this on the basis that no new issues had been raised since the last time the parties had briefed the issue. On September 18, 2024, the Court ordered the Plaintiff to provide a supplemental brief explaining why new motions for summary judgment are necessary.

The Plaintiff filed its Supplemental Brief as well as a Motion for Leave to Amend its Complaint on October 2, 2024. The District responded with an Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend the Complaint on October 23, 2024.

On January 23, 2025, the Court granted the Plaintiff's Motion to Amend and denied the Cross Motions for Summary Judgment as moot. The Plaintiff filed their Amended Complaint on January 24, 2025. Copies of the Court Order and the Amended Complaint have been added to Dropbox. The next hearing is scheduled for March 28, 2025. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

f. Tomell DuBose v. District (Case No. 2018-CA-000378-B)

I have previously reported on this case involving the Board of Dentistry disciplinary records. The District filed a Renewed Motion for Summary Judgment on September 13, 2024, arguing that the denial of a public interest fee waiver to the Plaintiff was fully justified and that the \$9,000 fee estimate was reasonable.

On February 4, 2025, the Court issued an order denying Plaintiff's Petition for Review and denying as moot the Defendant's Renewed Motion for Summary Judgment. The Court found that DuBose's complaint, though ostensibly brought as a suit under D.C. Official Code § 2-537, is properly construed as a petition for judicial review of an agency decision under D.C. Official Code § 2-510. Given this determination, the Court found that the case was ripe for review under the standard set forth in D.C. Official Code § 2-510(a)(3).

The Court concluded that DuBose’s Petition for Judicial Review should be denied and that the Department of Health’s decision to decline his request for a public interest fee waiver and assess \$9,000.00 in fees should be upheld. A copy of the Court’s Order has been added to Dropbox.

2. Legislation

- a. Legislative Action: The Council has not passed or considered any legislation related to open government since the last Board meeting.
- b. Reports to the Council: The Mayor of the District of Columbia (EOM) and the Attorney General of the District of Columbia (OAG) are required to provide annual FOIA reports to the Council of the District of Columbia (Council). The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is required to submit a Body Worn Camera (BWC) report to the Council, every six months.
 - i. FY2024 Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) Report

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia transmitted the District’s Annual Litigation Report arising under the FOIA to the Council, on January 31, 2025. A copy of the report has been added to Dropbox. The Executive Office of the Mayor for the District of Columbia has not released its FY2024 FOIA Report, to date.

- ii. FY2024 Body Worn Camera Report

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) provided the Council with its Body-Worn Camera Program Report on December 12, 2024. A copy of the report has been added to Dropbox.

E. Administrative

1. Performance Oversight Hearing

On February 5, 2025, the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety (the “Committee”) held an oversight hearing on BEGA’s performance. On March 3, 2025, the Committee communicated post-hearing questions to BEGA after the hearing. We are currently working on the supplemental response to the question concerning virtual meetings. The post-hearing questions are in Dropbox.

2. FY2026 Budget Formulation

On February 6, 2025, the Council held a public oversight hearing of the Committee of the Whole on the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). By law, the ACRF must be submitted to the Council by February 1, 2025. Since this hearing, the Fiscal Year 2026 revenue estimate was revised downward by the Chief Financial Officer by \$325 million – or approximately 3%. BEGA submitted its FY26 budget proposal to the Mayor on November 20, 2024. BEGA requested several budget enhancement requests for

the Mayor to consider in her submission to the Council. BEGA’s budget enhancement requests regarding OOG are as follows: to (1) restore the agency's non-personnel services funding to the FY24 level; and (2) to fund OOG’s trial attorney position, whose primary responsibility is to seek relief in Superior Court for OMA violations and to argue for temporary restraining orders and injunctive relief, as the OMA requires. The Council has not yet received the Mayor’s FY2026 budget proposal.

This concludes the Office of Open Government’s March 6, 2025, report. I am happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

V. Report by the Director of Government Ethics

Good morning, Chairperson Hutcheson and Members of the Board. I am Ashley Cooks, the Director of Government Ethics. I am pleased to present this report on the activities of the Office of Government Ethics (“OGE”).

A. Update on Status of OGE Operations

The information reported today regarding OGE’s cases will not reflect any status changes that may occur because of actions taken by the Board during today’s meeting.

OPEN INVESTIGATIONS BY STATUS	
Open	52
Open - Negotiations	0
Open - Show Cause Hearing	1
Grand Total	53

OPEN "UNDOCKETED MATTERS"	
Grand Total	9

PENDING/STAYED INVESTIGATIONS BY STATUS	
Closed - Pending Collection	36
Stayed - Pending DC Superior Court Case	1
Stayed - OAG False Claims Act Case	0
Stayed - OIG Investigation	4
Stayed - US District Court Case	3
Grand Total	45

REGULATORY MATTERS BY STATUS	
Closed - Pending Collection	35
Open	67
Grand Total	102

	Current	Last month	January
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Investigations Open	53	56	52
Investigations Stayed	8	8	8

The number of open preliminary and formal investigations includes 5 new matters. The investigative team resolved 10 investigations since the Board last met. This total does not reflect the number of complaints that were dismissed for a lack of jurisdiction.

B. Training/Outreach

1. Professional Development Trainings Attended by Staff

Senior Board Attorney Lynn Tran attended Working Alongside AI Responsibly & Ethically. She and General Counsel Rashee Raj both attended an Informational Session on Artificial Intelligence for DC Government Staff hosted by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer.

Last week, the Department of Human Resources’ Center for Learning and Development held MSS Week, which was a week of managerial trainings held both virtually and in person. I attended Communicating Strategically and Building High Performing Teams, Chief of Staff Christina Mitchell attended Giving/Receiving Feedback, and Supervisory Attorney Advisor Asia Stewart-Mitchell attended Performance Management.

On March 20-21, I will participate in the Council of Europe’s, Group of States Against Corruption (“GRECO”) Sixth Evaluation conference in Strasbourg, France. GRECO was established in 1999 by the Council of Europe to monitor States’ compliance with the organization’s anti-corruption standards. GRECO helps to identify deficiencies in national anti-corruption policies, prompt the necessary legislative, institutional and practical reforms, and provide a platform for the sharing of best practice in the prevention and detection of corruption. This evaluation round will focus on preventing corruption and promoting integrity at the sub-national level. I will participate in a plenary session, titled “Preventing corruption: Building an ethical infrastructure, transparency and control mechanisms”.

2. Conducted by staff

Since the last Board meeting, OGE conducted 9 training sessions: two New Employee Orientation Ethics Segments, two Financial Disclosure Statement Ethics Counselor Trainings, a new Financial Disclosure Statement Filer Training, Board & Commission Training for the Developmental Disabilities Council, the February Monthly Ethics Training, the February Brown Bag Session, and an Ethics Training for DC Green Bank.

On Monday, February 24th, Supervisory Attorney Advisor Stewart-Mitchell and Program Coordinator Stan Kosick presented the February Ethics Counselor Brown Bag Session, which was an introduction to the New FDS Peoplesoft Query.

They presented information on how to run the new query to produce a spreadsheet that contains specific, personal filer information. This query will ensure that BEGA receives accurate contact information for each filer, which is key to providing notifications of the filing requirement. A copy of the presentation was placed in the DropBox.

During the month of February, 29 employees completed ethics training using PeopleSoft and 31 employees were added to the Learning Management System.

The Training Team has been meeting with LRN to discuss creating new courses and updating existing courses to make them more accessible to users. Last month, OGE launched BGA601 Financial Interests and Disclosures, an updated version of the previous financial disclosure training course. The new course allows users to select whether to complete the course as an Ethics Counselor or Filer or both; and provides information that is detailed for each role. OGE is currently working to create BGA929 Outside Employment, which will address issues that employees should avoid when maintaining employment outside of the government.

3. Outreach

On February 19th, OGE published Volume 10 Issue 1 of its bi-monthly newsletter, Ethically Speaking. A copy of the newsletter was placed in the DropBox. Also, OGE is collaborating with The Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commission to create a training campaign for current ANCs, which will consist of notifying ANCs to complete LMS course BGA 920 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners.

C. Advisory Opinions/Advice

1. Informal Advice

OGE's legal staff provided advice for approximately 36 ethics inquiries, which is 19 more than the 17 reported at the February Board meeting. This number does not include responses we have provided to questions regarding the Lobbyist and FDS e-filing systems.

2. Formal Advisory Opinions

Since the last board meeting, OGE finalized and published advisory opinion, "Lobbyist Registration and Reporting," after the expiration of the comment period without receiving any comments. The opinion provides guidance for lobbyists on the filing requirements and prohibited activities and informs District government employees of their obligations regarding lobbyists. A copy was placed in the Dropbox.

D. Legislation and Rulemaking Updates

1. Budget Support Act Proposal

OGE has completed a draft Budget Support Act proposal which will amend the Lobbyist section of the Ethics Act by repealing § 1-1162.28(a)(4), which excludes 501(c)(4) organizations from registering as lobbying entities, and adding language that requires those entities to register in the same manner as 501(c)(3) organizations. While public policy and the nature of 501(c)(4) entities can justify a fee reduction in the same manner as it applies to other nonprofit organizations, BEGA has not identified a practical or public policy purpose for completely exempting 501(c)(4) entities from registration. The proposal was sent to the Office of the City Administrator for review and support. A copy will also be sent to the Council pending our budget oversight hearing.

2. Outside Employment Approval Recommendation

On February 23, I sent a letter to the Mayor recommending that the District government implement an outside employment approval requirement. I provided evidence of outside employment case dispositions in which employees provided services for private employers during their tour of duty. I also provided information on other jurisdictions that have outside employment approval rules. BEGA has included such recommendations in its Annual Best Practices Report since 2021.

E. OGE Administrative Matters

1. Vacancies

OGE has made an offer on the Human Resources Specialist vacancy. Two rounds of interviews were completed for the Attorney Advisor vacancy, and we hope to make an offer soon. The vacancy announcement for the Legal Fellow position has closed and OGE is reviewing resumes. OGE will soon post a vacancy announcement for its Program Support Assistant position.

Regarding our Administrative Officer position, I am pleased to announce that Naquita Titus has accepted the offer to serve in this role. Ms. Titus has been with the agency since 2023 as the Program Support Assistant where she earned valuable insight into the agency's operations. Prior to joining BEGA, Ms. Titus worked for DC Health Link as a team leader from 2015-2017, then as a Quality Assurance Analyst from 2017-2022.

2. Performance Oversight Hearing

On February 5th, Chairperson Hutcheson, Director Allen and I testified in our agency's Performance Oversight Hearing before the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. The Committee has requested answers to post-hearing questions which are due by March 24th. OGE and OOG will provide our submission by the deadline.

F. Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS)

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1162.24 and 1-1162.25, public officials and certain government employees must file a financial disclosure statement as a means of transparency and to prevent engaging in conduct that violates the financial conflicts of interest statute. BEGA is responsible for ensuring that employees and public officials, who meet the statutory requirement, file their annual financial disclosure statement.

We are in the initial stages of the 2025 Financial Disclosure season! As I previously stated, the team provided three Ethics Counselor FDS Trainings and two trainings for new filers. OGE will hold an additional new filer training session on March 14. The deadline for agencies to identify and provide their lists of filers to OGE was Monday, March 3rd and we have received most of the lists.

G. Lobbying Registration and Reporting (LRR)

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.27(a), a person who receives compensation or expends funds in an amount of \$250 or more in any 3-consecutive-calendar-month period for lobbying shall register with the Director of Government Ethics and pay the required registration fee. According to D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.30, each registrant shall file a quarterly report concerning the registrant's lobbying activities during the previous quarter.

The team sent fine letters for late filings for the third quarter of 2024. This marks the first set of fines to be assessed since the implementation of the new fee and fine schedule set forth in the Budget Support Act of 2025. The next scheduled Lobbying Training is Wednesday, March 19th to be given by Attorney Advisor Echols and Program Coordinator Kosick.

H. Public Investigations

1. 24-0010-F In re Marcellus Willis – This is a formal investigation based on a complaint that the Respondent, former employee of the University of the District of Columbia, used a government purchase card to make unauthorized purchases. Respondent worked at UDC for five years and was responsible for handling procurement for the University. The Board approved a Notice of Violation which contains assertions that Respondent violated DPM § 1800.3(g) by using public office for private gain and DPM § 1808.1 by failing to protect and conserve government property. A public hearing is scheduled for this afternoon.

2. 24-0016-F In re Trayon White – This is a formal investigation based on a criminal indictment in which Respondent, Council member for Ward 8, alleged agreed to receive \$156,000 in bribes and accepted \$35,000 in cash from a business owner in exchange for assisting with renewing the company's violence-interruption contracts with the D.C. government. Respondent was indicted on one count of bribery. This matter is stayed pending the outcome of the criminal court case, which is scheduled for trial on January 12, 2026.

3. 25-0002-F In re Trayon White – This is a formal investigation based on allegations that the Respondent, Council member for Ward 8 violated the Code of Conduct. Specifically, this office is investigating whether the Respondent filed full and complete public financial disclosure statements pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1–1162.24 and whether he violated any other rules with the Council’s Code of Conduct that are separate from the ongoing criminal case.

Thank you. This concludes the Office of Government Ethics’ March 6, 2025, report.

Board member Sobin asked about status of proceedings before the Council regarding Councilmember Trayon White. Director Cooks stated that the Council voted to expel Councilmember White but that she did not believe the actual expulsion had occurred. Board Member Sobin noted that counsel for Councilmember White suggested that BEGA should have conducted the proceedings in place of the Council since BEGA has due process procedures in place. Board Member Sobin also noted the biennial Judicial and Bar Conference would take place on April 25, 2025, focusing on the future of the profession and shaping the next generation of legal practice. He encouraged robust agency attendance and noted that the Mayor and Attorney General would both be present at the event.

Board Member Tucker voiced her support for the recommendation to the Mayor to require approval for outside employment, noting that the federal government has this requirement.

VI. Public Comment – if received

There were no public comments.

VII. Executive Session (nonpublic)

The Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss ongoing, confidential investigations pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(14), to consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A), to discuss personnel matters including the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation, compensation, discipline, demotion, removal, or resignation of government appointees, employees, or officials pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(10), and to deliberate on a decision in which the Ethics Board will exercise quasi-judicial functions pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(13).

VIII. Resumption of Public Meeting

The meeting resumed at 11:28 a.m.

The Board approved negotiated dispositions in **24-0064-P In re V Duckett** and **24-0101-P In re A Carruthers**. The Board approved a formal public investigation in **24-0004-F In re Dana McDaniel** and stayed the matter pending the outcome of the criminal case.

The Board will hold a public hearing in **25-0010-F In re Marcellus Willis** at 1:00 pm and will hold its next month meeting on April 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

DRAFT