

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

**MEETING MINUTES – April 3, 2025**

The District of Columbia Board of Ethics and Government Accountability held a hybrid meeting at the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, 1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700 West, and virtually on April 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Norma Hutcheson and Board members Charles Nottingham, 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**

All Board members were present at the start of the meeting.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of Minutes**

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Agenda and the minutes of the March 2025 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**

I have not issued an advisory opinion since the Board’s last meeting.

## 2. Informal Advice

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

14 requests for OMA advice;  
6 requests for FOIA advice; and  
10 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 twenty-six (26) public body meetings. As a result of the monitoring, four (4) corrective measures were communicated. The public bodies failed to (1) post a proper agenda pursuant to the regulations - the agenda was not detailed, or it was absent; and (2) post notice of meeting cancellation.

## **C. Training/Outreach**

### 1. OOG's Meeting with Representative of DC Public Charter School Board

On March 13, 2025, Attorney Joan Lelma attended a virtual meeting with Sarah Cheatham, the DC Public Charter School Board's attorney, where they discussed how replacing the School Transparency Policy with the Public Information Policy will impact DC Public Charter Schools and the implications for the Boards of Trustees for DC Public Charter Schools' (the "Boards of Trustees"), specifically concerning their obligations under the Open Meetings Act ("OMA"). Attorneys Lelma and Cheatham also discussed OOG's new OMA training series for the Boards of Trustees. The training schedule has been published.

### 2. Open Meetings Act ("OMA") Training for Local School Advisory Teams ("LSATs")

On March 14, 2025, Attorney Lelma presented "Introduction to the Open Meetings Act for Local School Advisory Teams (LSATs)." The training provided a brief account of OOG's function and an overview of the application of the Open Meetings Act ("OMA") to public bodies (in particular, LSATs), which included meeting procedures and before and after-meeting requirements under the OMA. This training was the first in OOG's new educational training series for LSATs, the schedule for which has been published. OOG's staff attended the training virtually.

3. American Society for Access Professionals (“ASAP”) Sunshine Week “Court Case Update” Training

On March 18, 2025, Attorneys Anthony J Scerbo and Lelma attended ASAP Sunshine Week “Court Case Update” training session facilitated by Ryan Mulvey, Policy Counsel at Americans for Prosperity Foundation and Michael Heise, Assistant Legal Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) Freedom of information Act (“FOIA”) Division. The training session covered how the courts have ruled in recent FOIA case law and the facilitators offered their perspectives on the impact of the rulings on FOIA professionals and the public.

4. Open Meetings Act (“OMA”) Training

On March 20, 2025, Chief Counsel Louis Neal presented “Navigating the Open Meetings Act” to DC public body members and their staff. The training explored the application of the OMA to public bodies and addressed how to navigate specific frequently questioned areas of the OMA by public bodies. OOG’s staff and I attended the training virtually.

5. American Society for Access Professionals (“ASAP”) “Advanced Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Freedom of Information Act” Panel Discussion

On March 20, 2025, Attorney Lelma attended ASAP Sunshine Week “Advanced Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of the Freedom of Information Act” panel discussion, moderated by Ryan Mulvey of Americans for Prosperity Foundation, with the following panelists: Jason Baron, University of Maryland; Alex Howard, Civic Texts; Irvin McCullough, Consultant, Government Accountability Project; Sean O’Neill, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Information Policy; and Nick Wittenberg, Armedia, LLC. The panelists discussed the impact of advanced technology, especially artificial intelligence, on the future of the FOIA, both in terms of potential benefits and inevitable challenges.

6. Parliamentary Procedure “Chair a Meeting with Confidence” Training

On March 27, 2025, OOG hosted Parliamentary Procedure “Chair a Meeting with Confidence,” training presented by Susan Leahy, founder of “Robert’s Rules Made Simple” to DC public body chairpersons, public body members, and their support staff. The interactive training covered the fundamentals of serving as a meeting chairperson and provided instruction on how to become a more confident and skilled meeting chairperson equipped to use powerful tools and techniques for handling difficult meeting participants. I introduced Ms. Leahy and OOG’s staff and I attended the training virtually. After the OOG hosted training, Ms. Leahy provided basic Parliamentary Procedure training through a webinar hosted by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (OANC) directed to new and seasoned Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners

(ANC). OOG sponsored this training as a courtesy to OANC to improve ANC Commissioners' meetings.

7. News Media Interview Regarding the Open Meetings Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025 and its Companion Bills

On March 31, 2025, at the request of news media personnel of NBC4 and Washington Post, I attended telephone and on-camera interviews concerning the Open Meetings Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025, and the related bills, B26-0199 - the Open Meetings Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2025, and B26-0200 - the Open Meetings Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025. My response to a Washington Post reporter's questions concerning the emergency and temporary legislation has been printed in part on March 31, 2025, and April 1, 2025, in two news articles titled, "D.C. Council to vote on measure to close some meetings to the public," and "[t]ransparency law slashed by D.C. Council as lawmakers want more privacy," in the Washington Post. Copies of the news articles are in Dropbox.

**D. Litigation and Legislative Update**

1. Litigation

a. 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. On March 7, 2025, per the parties' stipulation, the Court ordered the case to be dismissed with prejudice, with each party to bear its own costs. A copy of the stipulation has been added to Dropbox.

b. 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 March 28, 2025, at which it was determined that the plaintiff is to file a motion regarding redactions by May 12, 2025. Any opposition is to be filed by June 11, 2025, and any replies are to be filed by July 11, 2025. A remote motion hearing is scheduled for September 2, 2025. OOG Staff will continue to monitor.

c. 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. A remote status hearing was held on March 28, 2025. The parties requested a continuance to discuss settlement. The matter is now set for a further remote status hearing on May 16, 2025. OOG’s staff will continue to monitor.

2. Legislation

- a. Legislative Action regarding the OMA: On March 28, 2025, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson introduced PR26-0156, the Open Meetings Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025, and the companion bills, B26-0199 – the Open Meetings Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 and B-26-0200 – the Open Meetings Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.

On April 1, 2025, the D.C Council passed, by a vote of 10-2, Bill 26-199 and Bill 26-200, emergency and temporary legislation, that made sweeping amendments to the OMA. The D.C. Council provided that - through PR26-156, Open Meetings Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025 - these amendments were necessary for the Council to confront unprecedented threats to home rule. The resolution stated that “[t]his emergency legislation is particularly necessary in the current political climate to allow the Council to be briefed as a body in a timely manner and to develop appropriate responses to rapidly unfolding issues.” The resolution and declaration of an emergency passed unanimously.

These bills make substantial changes to how the OMA applies to the D.C. Council, significantly limiting applicability of the OMA to only legislative meetings and committee markups. The bills also provide that the D.C. Council may adopt its own rules concerning “gatherings” of the D.C. Council. The bills also exclude the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s meetings from the OMA.

The Emergency Amendment Act “shall take effect following approval of the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).”

As with all Temporary Acts, following approval or override, the Temporary Amendment “shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.” The Chairman has tentatively scheduled a public hearing for April 22, 2025, presumably in anticipation of permanent legislation amending the OMA.

- b. Legislative Action Regarding D.C. FOIA: On March 31, 2025, Councilmember Zachary Parker introduced B26-0217, the Transparency Is Accountability Amendment Act of 2025. Councilmember Parker’s legislation is intended to “make targeted changes to D.C.’s FOIA to enhance the ability of the public to obtain critical information about agency operations and to incentivize efficient and responsible government conduct through greater transparency.” Per the sponsor, this legislation will do the following: (1) Clarify that 911 call records cannot be withheld under the personal privacy exemption where the name and number of the caller is redacted (while also allowing a caller to provide written consent for this information to be disclosed);  
  
(2) Ensure that often used exemption for inter-agency and intra-agency memoranda cannot be used to withhold information regarding government misconduct, including discrimination, violations of criminal law, and sexual harassment;

(3) Require agencies to identify a specific, foreseeable harm when asserting an exemption to disclosure and to consider discretionary releases of information when the likelihood of significant harm occurring is low and the public interest in the information is high; and

(4) Require the disclosure of information withheld under the deliberative process if the public's interest in disclosure outweighs the District's interest in secrecy.

The Chairman referred this legislation to the Committee of the Whole. No further action has been taken at this time.

A copy of the Bill has been added to Dropbox.

## **E. Administrative**

### **1. Post-Performance Oversight Hearing Response to Councilmember's Request**

On March 21, 2025, I submitted OOG's response to the following post-performance oversight hearing before the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety request from Councilmember Brooke Pinto, dated March 3, 2025.

"Virtual Meeting Requirements - Please provide BEGA's analysis and specific recommendations regarding making permanent the temporary provisions under [D.C. Official Code § 2-575\(a\)\(4\)](#) allowing remote access to public body meetings, including any identified challenges or necessary statutory changes."

OOG's response included a draft Bill, the Virtual Open Meetings Authority Act of 2025, to amend the Open Meetings Act of 2010, to provide that when District of Columbia public bodies are conducting meetings via electronic means, certain electronic meetings shall be deemed open even if there are technical issues that prevent real-time access to the meeting.

I also submitted on behalf of OOG, a draft Bill, the Virtual Open Meetings Authority Act of 2025, to amend the Open Meetings Act of 2010, to provide that District of Columbia public bodies may conduct meetings via teleconference, Internet platform, or other electronic means, and provide the public with the ability to attend the meeting on that platform and to provide that a meeting shall be deemed open even if unforeseen technical issues arise, and to provide that all public bodies may conduct meetings electronically if the Mayor of the District of Columbia declares an emergency respecting the health, safety, or welfare of residents of the District of Columbia. A copy of the post-performance oversight hearing request, the draft bills, legislative proposal, and a summary of specific states' electronic meetings laws are in Dropbox.

**This concludes the Office of Open Government's April 3, 2025, report. I am happy to answer any questions the Board may have.**

Board member Nottingham thanked Director Allen for her response to media inquiries on the Council’s proposed legislative changes to the Open Meetings Act. He asked whether she was consulted prior to introducing the bills. Director Allen stated that BEGA was not consulted in advance and she and OOG are available to consult with the Council on the legislation. At the request of Board member Nottingham, Director Allen also provided a summary of the provisions under the OMA prior to the changes that would allow the Council to hold the types of meetings the proposed legislation is intended to address. Director Allen stated that she is concerned about the lack of notice that the meetings are occurring that would be allowed under the proposed changes.

**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.

<b>OPEN INVESTIGATIONS BY STATUS</b>	
Open	46
Open - Negotiations	0
Open - Show Cause Hearing	1
Grand Total	47

<b>OPEN "UNDOCKETED MATTERS"</b>	
Grand Total	7

<b>PENDING/STAYED INVESTIGATIONS BY STATUS</b>	
Closed - Pending Collection	37
Stayed - Pending DC Superior Court Case	2
Stayed - OAG False Claims Act Case	0
Stayed - OIG Investigation	4
Stayed - US District Court Case	3
Grand Total	46

<b>REGULATORY MATTERS BY STATUS</b>	
Closed - Pending Collection	36
Open	70
Grand Total	106

	Current	Last month	February
Investigations Open	47	53	56
Investigations Stayed	9	8	8

The number of open preliminary and formal investigations includes 8 new matters. The investigative team resolved 14 investigations since the Board last met. This total does not reflect the number of complaints that were dismissed for a lack of jurisdiction.

Within the next few weeks, the Quarterly Complaint Report for Quarter 2 of Fiscal Year 2025 will be published to the BEGA website, as well as a press release and heatmap, which outlines the number and types of cases that were closed in the quarter.

## **B. Training/Outreach**

### **1. Professional Development Trainings Attended by Staff**

Supervisory Investigator Ron Cook attended “Building High Performing Teams” by the D.C. Department of Human Resources (“DCHR”). Chief of Staff Christina Mitchell and Supervisory Attorney Advisor Asia Stewart-Mitchell both attended Progressive Discipline through DCHR. General Counsel Rashee Raj attended Ethics for Government Lawyers 2025, Advancing Racial Equity, and “From Since the last Board meeting, OGE conducted 8 training sessions: two New Employee Orientation Ethics Segments, one new Financial Disclosure Statement Filer Training, the March Monthly Ethics Training, a custom Ethics Training for the Department of General Services, Ethics Training for the DC Office of Health Care Ombudsman, the Quarterly Lobbyist Registration and Reporting E-file Training, and the March Brown Bag Session.

On Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Supervisory Attorney Advisor Stewart-Mitchell and General Counsel Raj presented the March Ethics Counselor Brown Bag Session, a panel discussion titled “Things Successful Ethics Counselors Do.” Raj and Stewart-Mitchell moderated four of the District’s star Ethics Counselors including Katherine Almen from the Department of Energy and Environment, Brett Bennett from DC Health, Bill Bonilla from the Office of Contracting & Procurement, and April Randall from the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection. Eighteen Ethics Counselors attended the session, and a copy of the presentation was placed in the DropBox.

During the month of March, 153 employees completed ethics training using PeopleSoft and 56 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, which is an updated version of the previous financial disclosure training course. OGE is currently working to create BGA929 Outside Employment, which will address issues that employees should avoid when maintaining employment outside of the

government. Additionally, OGE launched a training campaign which invited 314 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners to complete BGA920 Advisory Neighborhood Commission Ethics Training.

### 3. Outreach

On March 20-21, I participated 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 focused on preventing corruption and promoting integrity at the sub-national level. I participated in a plenary session, titled "Preventing corruption: Building an ethical infrastructure, transparency and control mechanisms". I provided information on the District's financial disclosure statement program, including the designation of public officials, notice, distinctions between public and confidential filers, the questions on financial disclosure form, and the audit process. I also provided information on the District's outside employment restrictions. The information was well received, and I received several follow-up questions. A copy of the presentation was placed in the DropBox.

On March 14-15, General Counsel Raj attended a meeting of the program committee of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws ("COGEL") in Atlanta, Georgia. GC Raj, on behalf of the agency, is a member of the committee that coordinates and plans every session of the annual conference in December.

## C. Advisory Opinions/Advice

### 1. Informal Advice

OGE's legal staff provided advice for approximately 35 ethics inquiries, which is 1 less than the 36 reported at the March 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

OGE has two advisory opinions in the works on Widely Attended Gatherings and an edited Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Sign-on Letter opinion.

## 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. The proposal was sent to the Office of the City Administrator for review and support. A copy will be sent to the Council pending our budget oversight hearing, which is scheduled for April 25, 2025.

2. Lobbyist Registration and Reporting

OGE is in the process of amending the Lobbyist section of BEGA's regulations to make technical changes and clarify reporting requirements. Specifically, the amendments change the registration fee and late filing fine amounts to the new fee schedule that was implemented at the beginning of this fiscal year. The amendments will also include language that notifies registrants that the best course of action is to file a termination report when they don't intend to engage in lobbying activity.

E. **OGE Administrative Matters**

1. Vacancies

OGE's Human Resources Specialist and Attorney Advisor vacancies have been filled and both new employees are expected to start later this month. The vacancy announcement for the Legal Fellow position closed, OGE reviewed resumes, and is interviewing candidates this afternoon. OGE will post its Program Support Assistant vacancy announcement soon.

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 sent post-hearing questions and requested answers by March 24<sup>th</sup>. OGE and OOG provided our responses on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

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 mentioned in past meetings, the team provided three Ethics Counselor FDS Trainings and two trainings for new filers. OGE held a final new filer training session on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for agencies to have identified and provided their lists of filers to OGE was March 3<sup>rd</sup>. OGE received most of the lists and staff uploaded 9,734 filers to the e-filing system. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Program Coordinator Kosick coordinated mailing with our vendor, and he will email filing notices to all filers on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **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.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Program Coordinator Kosick sent a notice to active lobbyists to file 2025 first quarter activity reports. The report period is now open and 2025 first quarter activity reports are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Fine letters were sent for late filings, and two letters resulted in fine waiver requests. As mentioned before, Attorney Advisor Echols and Program Coordinator Kosick held a Lobbying Training on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **H. Public Investigations**

1. 24-0016-F and 25-0002-F In re Trayon White – These are formal investigations based on: (1) the 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; and (2) allegations that the Respondent violated the Code of Conduct by failing to file a full and complete public financial disclosure statements pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.24. Investigation 24-0016-F is stayed pending the outcome of the criminal court case, which is scheduled for trial on January 12, 2026.

**Thank you. This concludes the Office of Government Ethics' April 3, 2025, report.**

## **VI. Public Comment**

The Board received one public comment from Dorothy Brizill, asking how BEGA's Board and staff planned to address the proposed revisions to the Open Meetings Act that the Council adopted Tuesday prior to the April 22 hearing on the permanent legislation. Ms. Brizill asked whether staff would be available to meet with civic groups and organizations to discuss the legislation and whether BEGA staff and/or the Board planned to discuss the legislation with the Mayor and Council.

Director Allen stated that staff would be available to meet with civic groups as well as the Mayor and Council to discuss the proposed legislation.

## **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 11:31. There were no matters to report out.

The Board will meet next on May 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

DRAFT