

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS HEARING BOARD

City of Pittsburgh Ethics Hearing Board (“Board”)

Video Meeting via Zoom and Livestreamed on Pittsburgh City Channel YouTube

June 28, 2022

Board Members Present:

Patrick Bigley

Maryann Herman

Alex Matthews

Rhoda Neft

Brazitte Poole

Orlando Portela-Valentín

Jennifer Richnafsky

David Quinn

Board Members Absent:

Samantha Bushman (excused, term completed, awaiting replacement)

Staff, Advisors and Others Present:

Leanne Davis, Executive Director

Ethics Hearing Board Interns Oy Adebajo and Blake McGee

- I. Call to Order
 - a. This meeting was called to order at 4:23 p.m.
- II. Public Comment:
 - a. There was none.
- III. Minutes:
 - a. After a review of the May 12, 2022 minutes, Alex Matthews moved to adopt the minutes. Orlando Portela seconded the motion, whereupon the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes, with Brazitte Poole abstaining, due to her absence at the May meeting.
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Gifts
 - i. The Valuable Gifts Committee discussed requested opinions. The Board considered where to highlight this work on the Board’s website.
 - b. Legislation -- The Executive Director presented two proposed options to revise the definition of public employee, as follows:

Option One:

(j) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE. Any individual employed or retained by the Commonwealth or a political subdivision who is responsible for taking or

Minutes of the Ethics Hearing Board
June 28, 2022

recommending official action of a discretionary ~~nonministerial~~ nature with regard to:

- (1) Contracting or procurement;
- (2) Administering or monitoring grants or subsidies;
- (3) Planning or zoning;
- (4) Inspecting, licensing, regulating or auditing; or,
- (5) Any other activity where the official action has an economic impact of greater than a ~~de minimis nature~~ nominal amount on the interests of any person or organization.

Option Two:

“... on the interests of any person, **business** or organization.”

The term shall not include individuals who are employed by this Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof in teaching as distinguished from administrative duties.

- i. Jennifer Richnafsky moved to adopt the second option of the two proposed suggested revisions. Alex Matthews seconded the motion, whereupon the Board voted unanimously to approve.

- V. New Business
 - a. None

- VI. Adjournment to Executive Session
 - a. There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned into executive session to discuss requests for advisory opinions.

Minutes prepared by Leanne Davis.