

CITY OF PITTSBURGH ETHICS HEARING BOARD (“EHB”)

MEETING AGENDA

February 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 501 City-County Building (Use Ross St. Side Elevators)  
414 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Members of the public are invited to attend in-person, via Microsoft Teams, or submit public comments in advance if unable to attend. Please email or call prior to the meeting at [leanne.davis@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:leanne.davis@pittsburghpa.gov) or 412-255-2122.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Meeting Minutes
  - a. November 7, 2023
- IV. Legislation and Regulations
  - a. Waivers
    - i. Discussion on appropriate factors
      1. Example of waiver from Chicago:  
<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/Waivers/Hoxie-2020.pdf>
    - ii. Review and vote on proposed waiver formatting and process
  - b. Gifts - removing initial threshold analyses
    - i. Chicago Board of Ethics  
<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/Publications/GiftRest.pdf>
    - ii. NYC Conflicts of Interest Board - <https://www.nyc.gov/site/coib/the-law/gifts-and-gratuities.page>
    - iii. Reasonable hosting/public figurehead exception
      1. Reasonable gift
      2. Official capacity
        - a. Elected officials have expansive official capacity
          - i. Territorial constraint
        - b. there must be a clear and direct connection between the person’s *performance* of the ceremonial duty or action and the nature and location of the event itself.  
<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/Deck%20Chairs/LXIV/16032.A.pdf>
          - i. Passive entertainment is insufficient, special access
      3. Donor is event sponsor
        - a. Party responsible for creating, organizing, hosting the event
          - i. Multiple sponsor situations, underwriter v. organizer

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4. Transparency
  - a. Reporting, pre/post event
  - b. State v. City reporting, and required parties
- V. Administrative – New business
  - a. Correspondence to nominees regarding required disclosures prior to appointment
  - b. Advice request form published on City’s portal  
<https://us.openforms.com/Form/b36ab35f-b417-4abb-b2bb-f05a48954424>
  - c. Ethics Training being scheduled
  - d. Additional URA advisories issued
- VI. Administrative - Old business
  - a. Interns update
  - b. Budget and staffing update
  - c. Philadelphia’s final draft of Conflict of Interest Policy, published Jan. 3, 2024:
    - i. <https://www.phila.gov/media/20210606173632/BOE-regulation-5.pdf>
  - d. Cogel conference highlights
- VII. Advisory Opinions
  - a. Review and respond to request for advisory opinions in executive session, vote
- VIII. Adjourn to ongoing executive session