

Minutes of the Ethics Hearing Board

January 10, 2019

City of Pittsburgh Ethics Hearing Board ("Board")

Ethics Office - Room 328, City-County Bldg., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Board Members Present:

Jeanette Ho, Chair

Lynn Davenport, Vice Chair

Orlando Portela Valentin, Secretary

Khalif Ali (attended via teleconference)

Patrick Bigley

Sean Coleman

Greg Monaco

Board Members Absent:

Fred Brown

Melanie Harrington

Attendance for this meeting was not taken due to the meeting being rescheduled from January 3, 2019.

Also Present:

Leanne Davis, Executive Manager

Heather Schultz, Investigator

- **Call to Order**
 - The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Jeanette Ho.
- **Public Comment**
 - There was no public comment and no members of the public present; all those in attendance are listed above.
- **Committee reports:**
 - There were no committee reports this month.
- **Approval of November and December Minutes**
 - Vice Chair Lynn Davenport moved to approve the minutes of the November Board meeting and Sean Coleman seconded the motion. Chair Jeanette Ho and Secretary Orlando Portela Valentin abstained from the vote. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes whereupon the motion carried.
 - Sean Coleman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December Board meeting with revisions and Chair Jeanette Ho seconded the motion. Vice Chair Lynn Davenport abstained from the vote. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes whereupon the motion carried.

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- **Executive Manager's Report:**
 - The Executive Manager discussed Section 801 of the Home Rule Charter and the required January 15th disclosure of interest filing by our elected officials. The Board reviewed the penalty in Section 803, and due to the gravity of this penalty, directed the Executive Manager to send an additional reminder.
 - The Executive Manager noted the rotation of members on the probable cause panel and the valuable gifts subcommittee.
 - The Executive Manager discussed gift summary leaflet that explains gift disclosures and reporting procedures. The Executive Manager asked for the Board to review and provide any suggested revisions.
 - The Executive Manager noted the new Ethics webpage, "Advice and Enforcement" section which includes Advisory Opinion 18-A-001.
 - The Board unanimously agreed to reschedule the primary Board meeting scheduled on February 14, 2019 to Thursday February 7, 2019.
 - The Executive Manager and the Board discussed Section 198 of the Code regarding campaign finance and related filing deadlines. The Executive Manager reviewed the items raised by City Council during the legislative session regarding the proposed revision to 198.05. During that meeting, Council requested further revisions and asked the Executive Manager to meet with the City Clerk to discuss changes. The Executive Manager reviewed her meeting with the Clerk, which occurred on Monday, January 7.
 - A motion was presented from Vice Chair Lynn Davenport to respond to Council's concerns to align campaign finance reporting dates with that of the County. Patrick Bigley and Sean Coleman seconded the motion. Greg Monaco abstained from the vote. The Board voted unanimously to approve whereupon the motion carried.
 - The Executive Manager also reviewed what appears to be a typo from the 2008 revision to §197.02(d) for "direct family" as at that time the definition was expanded but the term "spouse" was omitted.
 - A motion was also presented from Chair Jeanette Ho to have Executive Manager partake in discussion with Council regarding changing the language of Section 197 of the Ethics Code to include the term "spouse." Secretary Orlando Portela Valentin seconded the motion and noted to be consistent with the definition for immediate family, "domestic partner" should also be included. The Board voted unanimously to approve whereupon the motion carried.
 - The Executive Manager discussed revisions for introductory/reminder letters for County's packets, known candidates and incumbents.
- **Discussion and Review of Advisory Opinion**
 - Deliberation in executive session occurred regarding an advisory opinion concerning the Ethics Code and Home Rule Charter. The Board also scheduled a supplementary meeting on January 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. to continue an executive session by phone.

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- **Discussion and Review of Complaints, Investigations and/or Hearings**
 - The Board entered executive session to discuss complaints, investigations and/or hearings.

- **Adjournment**
 - At 5:57 p.m., Chair Jeanette Ho moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Orlando Portela Valentin seconded the motion, whereupon the meeting concluded.

Minutes prepared by Heather Schultz and reviewed by Leanne Davis.