

**Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Friday, August 25, 2023

The Board of Ethical Conduct held a meeting on this date in Metropolitan Council Committee Room 1 of the Second Floor of the Historic Courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee.

Persons in Attendance:

Diane DiIanni, Board Chair  
Brigid Carpenter, Board Member  
Joseph Gutierrez, Board Member  
Venita Lewis, Board Member  
Larry Patton, Board Member  
John Spragens, Board Member  
Kinika Young, Board Member  
Kyonzte Toombs, Ex-Officio Board Member

Nicki Eke, Legal Counsel  
Austin Kyle, Metropolitan Clerk  
Shawn Reed, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion of reasonable restrictions on public comment period, required pursuant to Public Chapter 300

After discussion by the Board Members, Mr. Spragens moved to allow members of the public to sign up in advance by email to the Clerk as well as allowing the public to sign up upon arrival at the meeting, and limit speakers to two minutes each with no limit on the number of speakers. The motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (6): DiIanni, Carpenter, Gutierrez, Patton, Spragens, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0).

Public Comment Period

No members of the public requested to speak.

Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2023

Mr. Spragens moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2023, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (6): DiIanni, Carpenter, Gutierrez, Patton, Spragens, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0).

Announcement of Appeal Rights

The Clerk announced that parties who disagree with a final decision of the Board may appeal by filing a writ of certiorari with the Davidson County Chancery Court within sixty (60) days of entry of the Order, and parties are encouraged to seek independent legal advice to ensure that applicable procedures and deadlines are properly followed.

### Summary and Discussion of Metro Legal memorandum re: Maryam Abolfazli v. Edna Jones and Harold Finch

Ms. Eke presented a summary of the legal report and analysis, which report recommended dismissal of the complaint. After discussion by the Board Members, Ms. Carpenter moved to adopt the recommendation of the Department of Law and dismiss the complaint, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (6): DiIanni, Carpenter, Gutierrez, Patton, Spragens, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (1): Lewis.

### Summary and Discussion of Metro Legal memorandum re: Albert Bender v. Multiple Council Members

Mr. Spragens recused himself from the matter and did not participate in any discussions or votes regarding this complaint. Council Member Toombs did not participate in any discussion regarding this complaint. Ms. Eke presented a summary of the legal report and analysis, which report recommended dismissal of the complaint. After discussion by the Board Members, Ms. Carpenter moved to adopt the recommendation of the Department of Law and dismiss the complaint, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (6): DiIanni, Carpenter, Gutierrez, Lewis, Patton, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0).

### Annual Lobbyist Reporting

Chair DiIanni provided a summary of the lobbyist reporting requirements as well as the Metropolitan Clerk’s duty to provide a report to the Board listing lobbyists that are not in compliance with the reporting requirements. At the April 14, 2023 meeting, the Board requested that the Clerk prepare a draft letter addressed to the Vice Mayor detailing the concerns of the Board regarding the current Lobbyist code. After discussion, the Board requested that Chair DiIanni update and revise the letter and have a new draft available for discussion at the next meeting. The Board agreed to meet on Thursday, September 28, 2023 for further discussion of the lobbyist code and reporting requirements as well as review and discussion of the revised letter to the Vice Mayor. The Clerk was instructed to provide the current lobbyist reporting procedures as well as samples of previously submitted lobbyist reports.

### Administrative Items

The Clerk gave an update to the Board regarding the current number of registered lobbyists and clients compared to the total number of registrations in 2022. As of August 25, 2023, there are 90 registered lobbyists representing 135 clients, with approximately four months remaining in the calendar year. The total registrations for 2022 were 98 registered lobbyists representing 148 clients.

### Next Steps/Scheduling

The Board will meet on Thursday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Committee Room 1.

### Adjournment

Upon motion properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.