

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
OF THE
METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
TENNESSEE**

Lydia Yousief,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
Carol McCoy,)	
)	
Respondent)	
)	

FINAL ORDER

The Board of Ethical Conduct (“Board”) of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County conducted a hearing on the amended complaint in this matter on July 8, 2024. As set forth below, the Board concluded that, based on the evidence presented, Respondent Carol McCoy did not violate the Standards of Conduct set forth in Chapter 2.222 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws (the “Standards of Conduct”).

The Complainant, Lydia Yousief, filed an initial complaint on March 8, 2024, alleging that the Respondent discussed and voted on matters not on the Arts Commission agendas, publicly humiliated a Black female Arts Commission employee by questioning her qualifications, and made racist and classist remarks concerning certain members of the arts community. Following a public meeting on April 4, 2024, the Board issued an order on April 5, 2024, dismissing the first allegation concerning discussion of matters not on the agenda in the initial complaint with prejudice and dismissing the remaining allegations without prejudice.

On April 12, 2024, the Complainant filed an amended complaint restating the allegations from the initial complaint and alleging two new violations of Metropolitan Code

§§ 2.222.020(j) and (k). Specifically, the amended complaint asserted that the Respondent “discriminated against BIPOC and working class artists and voted to defund [BIPOC and working class artists] on August 17, 2023” and “led Commissioners to fire Dana Parsons in February 15, 2024 leading to the full halting of all grants management for [fiscal year 2025]”.

Pursuant to Metropolitan Code of Laws § 2.222.040(C)(1)(e), the Department of Law evaluated the allegations of the amended complaint and advised that one of its allegations, if proven true, could constitute a violation of the Standards of Conduct set forth in the Metropolitan Code of Laws § 2.222.020(k). Accordingly, the Department of Law recommended that the Board (1) hold a hearing as to that one potential violation and (2) dismiss all other portions of the amended complaint. On April 29, 2024, the Board voted to hold a hearing as to whether the Respondent violated Metropolitan Code of Laws § 2.222.020(k), and to dismiss all other portions of the amended complaint. The hearing was ultimately set for July 8, 2024.

On July 8, 2024, the Board conducted an evidentiary hearing. The Complainant and Respondent both appeared pro se. After the presentation of evidence by both parties and closing arguments, the Board deliberated on the matters presented, taking into account the evidence, arguments, and relevant provisions of the Metropolitan Code of Laws. In a 4-0-1¹ decision, the Board voted that, based on all of the evidence presented at the hearing, the Respondent’s conduct did not constitute a violation of the Standards of Conduct.

Based on the evidence presented, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE BOARD OF ETHICAL CONDUCT, that:

¹ Chair DiIanni and Board Members Carpenter, Grimes, and Spragens voted in favor of the motion. Board Member Young abstained from the vote.

1. The evidence presented did not establish that the Respondent, Carol McCoy, violated section 2.222.020(k) of the Standards of Conduct, set forth in the Metropolitan Code; and
2. The amended complaint is dismissed with prejudice in its entirety.

Entered, this the 9th day of July, 2024.

D. DiIanni w/ perm CQM

Diane DiIanni, Chairperson
Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct

cc: Complainant, Lydia Yousief
Respondent, Carol McCoy