

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

John J. Griswold,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.)
)
Joy Styles, Member of the Metropolitan Council,)
)
Respondent)
)

FINAL ORDER

The Board of Ethical Conduct (“Board”) of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County conducted a hearing in this matter on July 8, 2024. As set forth below, the Board concluded that the Respondent, Councilmember Joy Styles committed a technical violation of the Standards of Conduct set forth in section 2.222.020(r) of the Metropolitan Code. The Board did not recommend any sanctions to be imposed.

The complaint filed by John J. Griswold on April 17, 2024, alleged that Councilmember Styles:

- Failed to respond to emails, voicemails and text communications from the Complainant regarding a zoning matter (allegation no. 1);
- Displayed unprofessional behavior in her response to the Complainant (allegation no. 2);

- Engaged in conduct during their communications that left the Complainant feeling disrespected and discriminated against (allegation no. 3); and
- Failed to comply with the 2022 and 2023 annual disclosure statement requirements in violation of section 2.222.020(r) of the Metropolitan Code (allegation no. 4).

Pursuant to the provisions of section 2.222.040(C)(1)(e) of the Metropolitan Code, the Department of Law evaluated the allegations of the complaint for the purpose of determining whether the facts as alleged, if proven true, would give rise to a violation of the Standards of Conduct. The Department of Law concluded that the facts alleged in allegation no. 4, if proven true, could constitute a violation of the Standards of Conduct set forth in the Metropolitan Code section 2.222.020(r). Accordingly, the Department of Law recommended that the Board hold a hearing on allegation no. 4 concerning violations of section 2.222.020(r) of the Metropolitan Code. The Department of Law further recommended that the Board dismiss allegations no. 1, 2, and 3, concerning failure to respond to messages and unprofessional conduct.

On June 5, 2024, the Board considered the allegations against the Respondent in an open meeting. The Board unanimously adopted the recommendations of the Department of Law.

On July 8, 2024, the Board conducted an evidentiary hearing. Both Mr. Griswold and Councilmember Styles were present at the hearing. Mr. Griswold testified as a witness at the hearing and also offered documentary evidence. Councilmember Styles testified as a witness at the hearing.

After the presentation of evidence by both parties, the Board deliberated on the matters presented, taking into account the evidence and relevant provisions of the Metropolitan Code. The Board then proceeded to consider a series of motions, as follows:

- (1) A motion was made and properly seconded that based on the evidence, there is a finding that there is a technical violation of section 2.222.020(r) of the Standards of Conduct by Councilmember Styles for failing to: (a) disclose in her 2022 Annual Disclosure Statement, financial interest in a real property located in Davidson County that is not her primary residence; and (b) file a timely 2023 Annual Disclosure Statement. This motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (5-0).
- (2) A motion was made and properly seconded to recommend to the Metropolitan Council that Councilmember Styles be censured for the technical violation of section 2.222.020(r) of the Standards of Conduct. The motion failed by a vote of 0-5.
- (3) A motion was made to recommend to Councilmember Styles that in the event she cannot, going forward, file accurate and timely annual disclosure statements with the Metropolitan Government, she should consider resigning. The motion failed for lack of a second.
- (4) A motion was made to recommend that Councilmember Styles resign her position. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Based on the evidence presented, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE BOARD OF ETHICAL CONDUCT, that Respondent, Councilmember Joy Styles, committed a technical violation of section 2.222.020(r) of the Standards of Conduct, set forth in the Metropolitan Code.

Entered, this the 11th day of July, 2024.

D. Dianni w/ perm NE

Diane DiIanni, Chairperson
Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct

cc: Complainant, John J. Griswold
Respondent, Councilmember Joy Styles