



Denver Board of Ethics
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DENVER BOARD OF ETHICS MINUTES MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2021

Chair Joseph Michaels called the meeting of the Denver Board of Ethics to order at 9:04 a.m. The Board met virtually through Microsoft TEAMS and conference bridge line. Present were Board members Joseph G. Michaels, Dianne Criswell, Jane T. Feldman, Doris E. Burd, and Rory McLuster. Also in attendance were Executive Director, Lori Weiser, and Senior Assistant City Attorney, Jordan Humphreys.

1. Introductory remarks and review of the Agenda.
2. The Board greeted and welcomed Rory McLuster, Deputy Director of the Office of Human Resources, who was recently appointed by City Council and the Mayor to fill the city employee representative seat on the Denver Board of Ethics. Thereafter, Ms. McLuster was sworn in to begin her service by Denver County Judge Renee Goble.
3. The Minutes of the Board's July 14, 2021 meeting were moved, seconded, and approved without amendment.
4. The Executive Director, Lori Weiser, reported that Elle Schalow, City Clerk Administrator, from the Clerk and Recorder's Office, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. On behalf of Ms. Schalow, Ms. Weiser reported that the Office of the Clerk and Recorder followed up with city officers who did not file their semi-annual gift and city item disclosures, and that Ms. Schalow would be providing the Board with the disclosures in the near future.
5. In case number 21-30, the Board welcomed Ms. Sara Nurmela, the Neighborhood Planning and Implementation Manager for the City of Denver's Department of Community Planning and Development (CPD). Following discussion, the Board determined that by being a city employee and running for council in a neighboring jurisdiction, there was not an explicit conflict of interest or a prohibition of this type of outside employment. Rather, the Board advised Ms. Nurmela that it is important for employees to engage and contribute to their communities. The Board moved,

Executive Director
Lori Weiser

Board Members
Joseph G. Michaels – Chair
Dianne Criswell – Vice Chair
Doris E. Burd
Jane T. Feldman
Rory McLuster

seconded and unanimously approved an advisory opinion that provides that it is not a violation of 2-61 or 2-63 of the Ethics Code for Ms. Nurmela to run for a position on Westminster's City Council, so long as she returns to the Board upon election and when conflicts of interests are realized, seeks the advice of the Executive Director on informal matters, uses no city resources, accepts no donations for her campaign from any city employees, recuses herself from any actions that create conflicts under the city's Code of Ethics, maintains records and documentation related to time spent working on her campaign and for Westminster, and safeguards confidential information.

6. In case number 21-31, the Board welcomed Amanda Sawyer, Denver City Councilwoman for District 5, and addressed her request for advisory opinion concerning a potential conflict of interest. After conversing with Councilwoman Sawyer, the Board moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to issue an opinion advising Councilwoman Sawyer that the circumstances did not give rise to a substantial conflict of interest as defined by the Denver Code of Ethics, and that while her personal relationships potentially implicate the legislative intent of the Ethics Code, she would need to determine for herself whether recusal was appropriate.
7. Jason Clements and Lisa Lumley, from the Real Estate and Space Planning Division of the Denver Department of Finance, joined the meeting to discuss the Board's request to identify a location for the Executive Director's office that would address safety and confidentiality concerns.
8. The Board decided not to convene an employee forum given the global pandemic.
9. The Chair announced that the Board would meet in-person in September, pending an assessment of risk and safety precautions that can be implemented. Members were asked to email the Executive Director with any thoughts or concerns.
10. Board member, Jane Feldman, noted that registration was open for the Council on Governmental Ethics Law (COGEL) conference. The Executive Director agreed to share information about this with Board members as received.
11. Board member, Doris E. Burd, provided updated information about Michael Henry, the previous Executive Director for the Board of Ethics.
12. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was concluded at 10:59 a.m.

NOTE: Copies of decisions in the cases mentioned above or any other cases may be obtained by contacting the Board's Executive Director, Lori Weiser—lori.weiser@denvergov.org.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD: September 15, 2021