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## **DENVER BOARD OF ETHICS MINUTES MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2020**

Chair Joseph Michaels called the meeting of the Denver Board of Ethics to order at 1:02 p.m. The Board met virtually through Microsoft TEAMS and conference bridge line. Present were Board members Joseph G. Michaels, Dianne Criswell, Sylvia S. Smith, Andrew S. Armatas and Jane T. Feldman. Also in attendance were Jordan Humphreys, Senior Assistant City Attorney, and Executive Director Lori Weiser.

1. Introductory remarks and review of Agenda.
2. The Minutes of the Board's December 10, 2020 meeting were moved, seconded, and approved unanimously with amendments.
3. The Board welcomed and engaged in further discussion concerning the gift reporting forms and procedures with Elle Schalow, the City Clerk Administrator for the Office of the Clerk and Recorder.
4. The Board engaged in discussion concerning revision of the Board's Rules of Procedure until 2:20 p.m., when it was decided that due to time restrictions, the topic would be tabled until January 2021.
5. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to move into executive session at 2:21 p.m. for the purpose of screening/deliberating on complaints in cases 20-16, and 20-31.
6. At 3:34, a motion was seconded and unanimously approved to move from executive session back into public session.
7. In case 20-16, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to find that, upon review of the written materials, no violation of the Denver Code of Ethics occurred and that the complaint should be dismissed.
8. Prior to taking action on case 20-31, Board member, Jane T. Feldman, disclosed that she made statements on social media with respect to the underlying conduct alleged in the complaint in case 20-31, however, after consultation with the Board, the Board's legal counsel, and the Executive Director, it was decided that she could be

**Executive Director**  
Lori Weiser

**Board Members**  
Joseph G. Michaels – Chair  
Dianne Criswell – Vice Chair  
Andrew S. Armatas  
Sylvia S. Smith  
Jane T. Feldman

fair and impartial such that she need not recuse herself from deliberating and voting on the case.

9. Because the complainant in case 20-31 asked that the two Board members appointed by the Mayor recuse themselves from deliberating and voting in the case, the Board addressed this issue prior to taking action on the case. Board member, Andrew S. Armatas, declined to recuse himself after a determination was made that he could be fair and impartial in his evaluation of the case. Board member, Dianne Criswell, reviewed the procedural process resulting in her appointment to serve on the Board. After due consideration, the decision was made that recusal was not necessary and that she should participate in the discussion and action in case 20-31.
10. In case 20-31, it was moved, seconded, and approved for the Executive Director to conduct further investigation.
11. Board member, Dianne Criswell, left the meeting to attend to another commitment.
12. The remaining members of the Board reviewed the draft of contemplated changes to the Denver Code of Ethics. A motion was made, seconded, unanimously supported to approve the recommended changes to the Code and for the Executive Director to forward them to stakeholders for review and comment.
13. The Chair, Joseph G. Michaels, urged all to continue to be vigilant and safe, wished everyone happy holidays, and assured the Board that the meetings will continue to be held virtually for the foreseeable future.
14. Board member, Jane T. Feldman, reminded the Board that the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) was currently having its annual conference virtually. She also informed the Board that she will be serving on the host committee for the 2021 conference which will be held in Denver, and that she will be asking for input from the Board as to speakers and topics to be considered for 2021 conference.
15. Board member, Sylvia S. Smith, offered thanks to all for the efforts made to ensure that the Board could continue to hold meetings and do its work during the pandemic.
16. At 4:02 p.m. a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD on January 13, 2021.

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](mailto:lori.weiser@denvergov.org).