DENVER BOARD OF ETHICS
MINUTES
MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2022

Chair Joseph G. Michaels called the meeting of the Denver Board of Ethics to order at 1:15 p.m. The Board met in-person, and the public meeting was open to interested parties by joining virtually or by telephone. Present in person were Board members Joseph G. Michaels, Jane T. Feldman, Doris E. Burd, and Everett B. Martinez. Vice Chair Dianne Criswell joined the meeting at 1:57 p.m. Also present were Jordan Humphreys, Senior Assistant City Attorney, and Executive Director Lori Weiser.

1. Welcome, introductory remarks, and review of the Agenda.
2. The Draft Minutes of the Board’s November 2, 2022 meeting were moved, seconded, and approved unanimously, by a vote of 4-0.
3. The Board welcomed Andy Szekeres from the Office of the Clerk and Recorder. Mr. Szekeres informed those present that the new MapLight System would launch the following day, December 15, 2022, and stated that training would be offered and recorded. There will also be a MapLight Manual available. The end of year reporting data will be gathered through this System. The Board conveyed appreciation for Mr. Szekeres’ diligent work as the Board’s liaison to the Clerk and Recorder’s Office.
4. In case 22-72, the Board welcomed Denise Rowe, a 911 Center supervisor, and Vonn Vititoe, a Senior Business Partner from the Office of Human Resources. Following discussion, the Board found that while the Benevolent Fund proposed was a laudable project, the Board declined to issue a broad advisory opinion. Rather, the Board concluded that it would provide general guidelines consistent with Section 2-60 of the Denver Code of Ethics, Gifts to Officers, Officials, and Employees. The Board urged Ms. Rowe and Ms. Vititoe to contact the City Attorney’s Office and to return to the Board if and when more specificity could be offered.
5. In Case 22-73, the Board welcomed Mr. Keith Morgan, a Plans Review Engineer with the Department of Community Planning and Development, and Mr. Eric Browning, the Chief Building Official for the Department of Community Planning and Development. Following discussion, the Board moved to issue an advisory opinion finding that a waiver would be necessary for Mr. Morgan to continue his work while employed by a third-party vendor without waiting the six-month period...
required by Section 2-64 of the Denver Code of Ethics. Further, the Board moved to find that granting such a waiver would be in the best interest of the city based upon the specific circumstances and facts at play. The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

6. Vice Chair Dianne Criswell arrived at 1:57 p.m., during the deliberation of case 22-73. Because she was not present during the entirety of the discussion, she did not participate in the deliberation or vote in the matter.

7. In case 22-77, the Board welcomed Mr. Justin Jones and Mr. Samuel Stevens from the Department of Community Planning and Development. Following discussion, the Board found that the hiring and supervision of a relative would violate Section 2-59 of the Denver Code of Ethics. The Board considered and approved a waiver by a vote of 4-1, conditioned on the supervisor not being involved in the interviewing of their relative, and so long as someone other than the supervisor prepares the relative’s annual evaluation, if hired. Mr. Jones and Mr. Stevens were asked to return to the Board in six months if the relative was hired.

8. At 3:45 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0 to leave the Public Session of the meeting for the purpose of convening in Executive Session to screen pending complaints in cases numbered 22-68, 22-71, 22-74, 22-75, and 22-77.

9. The Board reconvened in Public Session at 3:51 p.m.

10. In case 22-68, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0 to request further investigation.

11. In case 22-71, it was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0 to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Denver Code of Ethics Sections 2-56(a)(6)(a) and (b) of the Denver Code of Ethics, for lack of jurisdiction and because, the conduct if true, would not violate the Ethics Code. The Board included instruction that the complainant should be referred to Denver 311 and/or the Denver Police Department’s Internal Affairs Unit.

12. In case 22-74, it was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0 to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Denver Code of Ethics Sections 2-56(a)(6)(a) and (b) of the Denver Code of Ethics, for lack of jurisdiction and because, the conduct if true, would not violate the Ethics Code. It was noted that the complainant should be directed to follow up with 311.

13. In case 22-75, Member Judge Doris E. Burd disclosed that she was familiar with the subject of the complaint through her work with Denver County Court. She stated that she did not have any contact with the subject of the complaint other than through her official duties. No member felt that it would be necessary for Judge Burd to recuse herself as she could be fair and unbiased in deliberation and voting. Thereafter, it was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0 to keep the case
in a preliminary stage and to have the Board’s Executive Director confer with the Office of Human Resources and report back to the Board in January of 2023.

14. In case 22-77, it was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0 to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Sections 2-56(a)(6)(a) and (b) of the Denver Code of Ethics, for lack of jurisdiction and because, the conduct if true, would not violate the Ethics Code.

15. Due to the late hour, Chair Joseph G. Michaels suggested that all other business be tabled to the January 4, 2023 meeting of the Board.

16. At 4:00 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0 and the meeting was concluded.

NOTE: Copies of the written 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: January 4, 2023.