

**EBDI Hearing – City Hall  
October 1, 2024, 10:00 AM**

Good morning. My name is Andy Freeman and I was the VP of Real Estate Development at EBDI prior to being let go on June 8<sup>th</sup> of this year as a result of blatant racial discrimination and a violation of my 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Constitutional Rights by none other than EBDI's Board Chair, Calvin Young and Baltimore City's Mayor, Brandon Scott.


I think a forensic audit is long overdue, as during my tenure at EBDI I saw many inconsistencies, lack of professional and industry experience at the staff, board and committee levels and several conflicts of interest with stakeholders, developers, politicians and Board members.

I've observed a State Senator award monies to a for-profit developer through an appropriations bill to the tune of \$1.34 million and funnel it through a non-profit organization that wasn't even within the EBDI footprint or affiliated with EBDI and allow it to be used for the acquisition and development of a market rate multifamily project in the EBDI footprint while falsely representing that it was an affordable community. I was also made aware that \$1 million was spent to relocate just one person, Valerie Maynard, who has since passed and EBDI was remiss at collecting \$120,000 that was still owed to EBDI by this person, who was a world-renowned artist. As I understand, the Board Chair, Calvin Young, also had his friend put under contract for \$20,000 to manage a vacant building owned by EBDI that was under contract to be sold. It required no active management.

These few examples exemplify the necessity of a forensic audit and should be done by the very best forensic accounting firm available, regardless of minority status. During my time at EBDI, an "impact audit" was done, orchestrated in large part by Johns Hopkins, in what appeared to be an attempt at side stepping the previous calls for a forensic audit.

After being wrongfully terminated myself, and after Karen Johnson, the previous Chief Real Estate Officer was also terminated, and after Abe Rosenthal, the Real Estate Committee Chair and Board member resigned because of what Calvin Young had done, there is no one left with any real estate or development experience with knowledge of EBDI transactions that could even participate in any kind of audit. It is hard to imagine that there is anyone left at EBDI that is even capable of executing on EBDI's mission and core values given the lack of expertise, experience and knowledge that I have observed.

I implore upon the City Council to use its authority to investigate EBDI to the fullest extent, as I believe EBDI has clearly lost its way.



Andy Freeman