

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



BOARD OF ETHICS
OF BALTIMORE CITY

LINDA B. "LU" PIERSON, Chair
AVERY AISENSTARK, Director
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

January 30, 2012

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Fourth Floor, City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

Re: Bill 11-003 {"Online Posting of Elected Officials' Statements"}

You have referred Bill 11-003 to the Ethics Board for comment. Bill 11-003 would require that financial disclosure statements filed by elected officials be posted on the Ethics Board's Website for unrestricted public review.

This bill follows on a similar requirement that was recently enacted (December 2011) by the Baltimore County Council, and its introduction anticipated a "priority" reform that was just announced (January 2012) for State lawmakers.

The City Ethics Board approves of Bill 11-003 and supports its purpose of enhancing transparency in government. And the Board would be ready, willing, and able to implement the bill were it enacted in its current form.*

Very truly yours,



Avery Aisenstark



xc: The Honorable James B. Kraft
The Honorable Carl Stokes
Ms. Angela Gibson

* A different situation would pertain, for example, if the bill's scope were broadened to encompass, say, all filers (of which there are thousands) or, even, all non-elected "officials" (of which there are hundreds). The Ethics Board simply does not have the personnel and other resources that would be needed to undertake the scanning, organizing, uploading, indexing, etc., of that many files.

Tel: (410) 396-4730 Fax: (410) 396-8483
<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/BoardsandCommissions/EthicsBoard.aspx>

