

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLING -BLAKE, MAYOR



BOARD OF ETHICS
OF BALTIMORE CITY

DANA P. MOORE, CHAIRPERSON

AVERY AISENSTARK, Director
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

February 19, 2010

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

RE: City Council Bill 10-0446 – Public Ethics Law – Clarification
and Expanded Coverage

Dear President and Members

The Ethics Board has been asked to review City Council Bill 10-0446. City Council Bill 446 amends Article 8 of the Baltimore City Code known as the Baltimore City Ethics Code. The bill proposes to clarify certain definitions and the provisions regarding restrictions on participation and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts and financial disclosure.

The Ethics Board understands the purpose of the bill is to ensure that the provisions of the law regarding certain prohibitions on the solicitation and acceptance of gifts and required financial disclosures are broad enough to reach all relationships that give rise to potential conflicts of interest. The Board is concerned that the language of the bill, however, is too broad and difficult to understand, resulting in public servants being unable to determine what conduct is prohibited.

The Board is specifically concerned that the language in Section 2-5(a), 6-26(a)(1)(ii), 6-26(a)(5), 6-27(1)(ii) and 6-27(5). The Board would like to have the opportunity to work with the City Council to amend these sections of the bill to provide language that is easy to understand and not overly broad so the intended relationships are covered and public servants are aware of the prohibited activity.

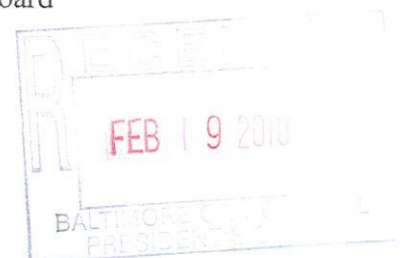
Sincerely yours,

Dana P. Moore / ena

Dana P. Moore
Chair

Baltimore City Ethics Board

F. Amundson



cc: Honorable William H. Cole, IV
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison
Donald R. Huskey
Deborah Moore-Carter
Alexander Chambers
Elena R. DiPietro
Avery Aisenstark