

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
ORDINANCE **24-368**  
Council Bill 22-0275

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Introduced by: The Council President  
At the request of: The Administration (Board of Ethics)  
Introduced and read first time: September 12, 2022  
Assigned to: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: August 26, 2024

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**Ethics – Conforming Changes**

FOR the purpose of updating the City Ethics Article to conform to state law.

BY adding

Article 8 - Ethics  
Sections 2-24, 6-40, 7-19, and 7-30  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

Article 8 - Ethics  
Sections 6-26(a), 6-27, 6-37, 7-4(a), 7-17(c), 7-23(b), 7-27(b), and 7-29  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

**SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the**  
Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

**Baltimore City Code**

**Article 8. Ethics**

**Subtitle 2. Definitions; General Provisions**

***Part I. Definitions***

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[ Brackets ] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by  
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 **§ 2-24. "QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY".**

2 "QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT:

3 (1) IS CREATED BY A STATE STATUTE;

4 (2) PERFORMS A PUBLIC FUNCTION; AND

5 (3) IS SUPPORTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE STATE, BUT IS MANAGED PRIVATELY.

6 §§ 2-25 [2-24] TO 2-30. *{Reserved}*

7 ***Part IV. Gifts***

8 **§ 6-26. Solicitation prohibited.**

9 (a) *In general.*

10 Except as permitted under subsection (b) of this section, a public servant may not solicit  
11 or facilitate the solicitation of a gift, whether on the public servant's own behalf or on  
12 behalf of another person[, from any person that the public servant knows or has reason to  
13 know:]

14 [(1) does or seeks to do business of any kind, regardless of amount:]

15 [(i) with the public servant's agency; or]

16 [(ii) with another person in connection with or in furtherance of a contract that  
17 is being negotiated or has been entered into by the other person with the  
18 public servant's agency;]

19 [(2) engages or seeks to engage in an activity that is regulated or controlled by the  
20 public servant's agency;]

21 [(3) is or, within the preceding 12 months, has been a lobbyist with respect to matters  
22 within the jurisdiction of the public servant;]

23 [(4) has a financial interest that might be substantially and materially affected, in a  
24 manner distinguishable from the public generally, by the performance or  
25 nonperformance of the public servant's official duties; or]

26 [(5) is an owner, partner, officer, director, trustee, employee, or agent of any person  
27 described in items (1) through (4) of this subsection].

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**§ 6-27. Acceptance prohibited.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Part IV, a public servant may not knowingly accept any gift, directly or indirectly, from any person that the public servant knows or has reason to know:

(1) does or seeks to do business of any kind, regardless of amount:

(i) with the public servant's agency; or

(ii) with another person in connection with or in furtherance of a contract that is being negotiated or has been entered into by the other person with the public servant's agency;

(2) engages or seeks to engage in an activity that is regulated or controlled by the public servant's agency;

(3) is or, within the preceding 12 months, has been a lobbyist with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of the public servant;

(4) has a financial interest that might be substantially and materially affected, in a manner distinguishable from the public generally, by the performance or nonperformance of the public servant's official duties; [or]

(5) IS AN ASSOCIATION, OR ANY ENTITY ACTING ON BEHALF OF AN ASSOCIATION, THAT IS ENGAGED ONLY IN REPRESENTING COUNTIES OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS; OR

(6) [(5)] is an owner, partner, officer, director, trustee, employee, or agent of any person described in items (1) through (4) of this section.

***Part V. Miscellaneous***

**§ 6-37. Disclosing confidential information.**

Except in the discharge of an official duty, a public servant OR FORMER PUBLIC SERVANT may not disclose or use, for his or her own economic benefit or that of another, confidential information that the public servant OR FORMER PUBLIC SERVANT acquired by reason of his or her public position and that is not available to the public.

**§ 6-40. PROHIBITED RETALIATION.**

A PUBLIC SERVANT MAY NOT RETALIATE AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL FOR PARTICIPATING IN AN INVESTIGATION OF OR REPORTING A POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE.

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**Subtitle 7. Financial Disclosure**

***Part I. General Provisions***

**§ 7-4. Public inspections.**

**(a) *In general.***

(1) Except as provided in [paragraph] PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) of this subsection, the Ethics Board shall allow a person to inspect a financial disclosure filed by a public servant under this subtitle.

(2) The Ethics Board may not provide public access to a portion of a statement that is filed on or after January 1, 2019, and that expressly identifies an individual's home address.

(3) THE ETHICS BOARD MAY NOT PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO CONSIDERATION RECEIVED FROM:

(I) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM;

(II) A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE; OR

(III) A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE.

***Part III. Contents of Statements***

**§ 7-17. Attributable interests.**

**(c) *Interests held by certain business entities.***

(1) An interest is attributable to the public servant if, at any time during the reporting period, it was held by:

(I) a business entity in which an equity interest of [30%] 10% or more was held by or otherwise attributable under this section to the public servant[.];

(II) A BUSINESS ENTITY IN WHICH A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH HELD A 25% OR GREATER INTEREST;

(III) A BUSINESS ENTITY IN WHICH A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH HELD A 50% OR GREATER INTEREST;  
AND

(IV) A BUSINESS ENTITY IN WHICH A PUBLIC SERVANT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THROUGH AN INTEREST IN 1 OR A COMBINATION OF OTHER BUSINESS ENTITIES, HOLDS A 10% OR GREATER INTEREST.

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1 **§ 7-19. BUSINESS ENTITY NAMES.**

2 AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OF A BUSINESS ENTITY UNDER THIS  
3 SECTION SHALL DISCLOSE ANY OTHER NAMES THAT THE BUSINESS ENTITY IS USING FOR  
4 TRADING OR DOING BUSINESS.

5 ~~§[§ 7-19 TO] 7-20. {RESERVED}~~

6 **§ 7-23. Gifts.**

7 (b) *In general.*

8 The statement must include a schedule of each significant gift that was, at any time during  
9 the reporting period:

10 (1) accepted by the public servant or by any other person at the direction of the public  
11 servant; and

12 (2) given by or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person that the public servant  
13 knows or has reason to know was:

14 (i) a lobbyist;

15 (ii) a person regulated by the City; [or]

16 (iii) a person doing business with the City[.]; OR

17 (IV) AN ASSOCIATION OR AN ENTITY ACTING ON BEHALF OF AN ASSOCIATION  
18 THAT IS ENGAGED ONLY IN REPRESENTING COUNTIES OR MUNICIPAL  
19 CORPORATIONS.

20 **§ 7-27. Sources of income - Earned income.**

21 (b) *Required specifics.*

22 (1) For each source of income subject to this section, the schedule must include:

23 (I) [(1)] the name and address of the place of salaried employment or business  
24 entity;

25 (II) [(2)] for each family member, that individual's name and relationship to the  
26 public servant; and

27 (III) [(3)] if the individual's spouse is a lobbyist, any entity that has engaged the  
28 spouse for lobbying purposes.

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1 (2) THE STATEMENT MAY NOT INCLUDE A LISTING OF A MINOR CHILD'S EMPLOYMENT OR  
2 A LISTING OF 1 OR MORE BUSINESS ENTITIES OF WHICH THE CHILD IS A SOLE OR  
3 PARTIAL OWNER, UNLESS THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS ENTITY:

4 (I) IS SUBJECT TO THE REGULATION OR AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY THAT  
5 EMPLOYS THE INDIVIDUAL; OR

6 (II) HAS CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$10,000 WITH THE AGENCY THAT EMPLOYS THE  
7 INDIVIDUAL.

8 **§ 7-29. [Additional information] RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**  
9 **MEDICAL SYSTEM, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.**

10 [The statement may include a schedule of additional interests or information that the public  
11 servant chooses to disclose.]

12 (A) THE STATEMENT SHALL INCLUDE A SCHEDULE OF ANY FINANCIAL OR CONTRACTUAL  
13 RELATIONSHIP WITH:

14 (1) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM;

15 (2) A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE;  
16 OR

17 (3) A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE  
18 STATE.

19 (B) FOR EACH FINANCIAL OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP REPORTED, THE SCHEDULE SHALL  
20 INCLUDE:

21 (1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP;

22 (2) THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE RELATIONSHIP; AND

23 (3) THE CONSIDERATION.

24 **§ 7-30. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

25 THE STATEMENT MAY INCLUDE A SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL INTERESTS OR INFORMATION  
26 THAT THE PUBLIC SERVANT CHOOSES TO DISCLOSE.

27 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
28 after the date it is enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this 16 day of September, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,  
this 16 day of September, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this 2nd day of October, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency  
This 28th Day of September, 2024.

*Elena R. DiPietro*

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Chief Solicitor