

**ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street, Hartford
Monday, September 19, 2022**

PRESENT: Commissioners Diane Lewis, Bhupen Patel and James Woulfe (3)
Commissioner Allen Hoffman (alternate) (1)

ABSENT: Commissioner Gardow (alternate) (1)

ALSO

PRESENT: Commissioner John Avedisian
Commissioner Georgiana Holloway
Commissioner Jackie Mandych
Commissioner Avery Buell
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
Commissioner Byron Lester (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Maureen Magnan (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Dominic Pane (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Joan Gentile (Remote Attendance)
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer (Remote Attendance)
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources (Remote Attendance)
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Services
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator (Remote Attendance)
Tra Phan, Controller (Remote Attendance)
David Baker, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Julie Price, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Woulfe called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REFERRAL OF AUGUST 25, 2022 REGARDING POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF MDC ETHICS CODE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

Commissioner Woulfe offered Commissioner Taylor the ability to make a statement. Commissioner Taylor asked for clarification of what he is being charged with and made a statement regarding his meetings with Dana Mara of Sandler & Mara PC.

District Counsel Christopher Stone read statements previously made by Commissioner Taylor from transcripts of the September 7th District Board Meeting and September 14th Ethics Advisory Board Meeting. Committee members and District Counsel Christopher Stone asked Commissioner Taylor questions regarding the meetings with Dan Mara.

Commissioners Avedisian made a statement regarding a phone call from Commissioner Taylor wherein Commissioner Taylor discussed meeting with Sandler & Mara about the 2021 and 2022 invoices.

Commissioner Mandyck made a statement regarding a phone call with Commissioner Avedesian wherein he described his prior phone call with Commissioner Taylor.

RECESS

At 5:27 PM, without objection, Chairman Woulfe called for a recess.

RECONVENE

At 5:42 PM, without objection, Chairman Woulfe reconvened the meeting of the Ethics Advisory Committee

At 5:53 PM, Chairman Woulfe requested an executive session to discuss written communication sent by District Counsel Christopher Stone.

On motion made by Commissioner Patel and duly seconded, the Ethics Advisory Board entered into executive session to discuss written communication sent by District Counsel Christopher Stone on September 19th to the members of the Ethics Advisory Board that is privileged by the attorney-client relationship within the meaning of §1-210(B)(10)

Those in attendance during the executive session:

Commissioners Diane Lewis, Bhupen Patel and James Woulfe and Attorneys Christopher Stone and John S. Mirtle.

RECONVENE

At 6:28 PM, Chairman Woulfe requested to come out of executive session and on motion made by Commissioner Lewis and duly seconded, the Ethics Advisory Committee came out of executive session and reconvened. No formal action was taken.

Commissioner Patel made the following motion:

Be it resolved, the Ethics Advisory Board hereby finds and reports the following:

- 1) Commissioner Taylor admits that he met with Dan Mara of Sandler & Mara PC on two separate occasions to discuss disputed 2021 and 2022 legal invoices presented by Sandler & Mara, PC;
- 2) Without questioning the motives of Commissioner Taylor, the Ethics Advisory Board consider Commissioner Taylor's action to be technical violations of MDC Bylaw § B6d;
- 3) The Ethics Advisory Board hereby recommends that there be a finding of ethical violations as referenced above, but that the District Board take no discipline or censure against Commissioner Taylor, but rather that he be advised that any similar violations may lead to more adverse consequences; and
- 4) The Ethics Advisory Board further recommends no Commissioners meet with any individual or representative of any entity, constituent or otherwise, having an adverse claim or claims against the District. To the extent that there is any question as to whether any adverse claim exists, the matter should be referred to the Office of District Counsel.

On motion made by Commissioner Patel and duly seconded, the resolution was adopted by majority vote of those present. Commissioner Lewis voted no.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner Taylor thanked the Ethics Advisory Board for the manner in which they conducted this matter. He also thanked the Ethics Advisory Board for their fairness and judiciousness.

Commissioner Lewis thanked Commissioner Taylor for his honesty.

Commissioner Patel agreed with Commissioner Lewis and thanked Commissioner Taylor for his honesty and straightforwardness.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval