



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ETHICS

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
2100 Ridge Ave, Room G300

Members Present: Kelda Harris-Harty, Karena Bierman, Vincent Thomas and Jennifer Billingsley

Members Absent: Elizabeth Gustafson

Staff Present: Michelle Masoncup, Staff Attorney

Presiding Member: Kelda Harris-Harty, Committee Chair

1. **Quorum:** Chairwoman, Harris-Harty declared that the Board had a quorum, with 4 of 5 members present and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. M. Masoncup reported that Liz Gustafson recused herself from review of the complaint filed by Misty Witenberg because of a personal friendship with the complainant. Vincent Thomas also recused himself from the case filed by Misty Witenberg. He stated that Alderman Rue Simmons voted against his appointment to a police review committee and he felt it gave the perception of bias.

2. **Minutes:** The board inadvertently did not discuss and therefore approve the meeting minutes.

3. **New Business:** M. Masoncup summarized that the Board was assembled to conduct an initial consideration of the Code of Ethics complaint filed by Misty Witenberg against Alderman Rue Simmons.

The Board listened to statements from the complainant, respondent and also provided an opportunity to the respondent's employer, Sunshine Enterprises, to address the Board. The statements were to address the issue of jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to address the matters raised in the complaint.

K. Harris-Harty read a motion to move into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(15) to discuss the ethics complaint and deliberate further.

The Board convened back in open session. K. Bierman read the Board initial determinations with respect to jurisdiction only. The Board will hold a hearing on May 22nd at 7:00 with respect to the 2017 grant funding received by Sunshine Enterprises and if there was a conflict of interest for this funding attributed to Alderman Rue

Simmons. The conflict of interest issue was entered and continued for a hearing to May 22nd.

The Board does not have jurisdiction over an employer of an elected official, board or commission member. An employee is not held responsible for the actions or inactions of its employer, for the allegations made in the complaint of CDBG Program Reporting and Administration (B) Sunshine Enterprises Regulatory Filings and Assumed Name (C) Violation of Church and State; (E) Economic Development Program Grant Administration and (F) Sunshine Enterprise use of Civic Center meeting rooms.

5. **Old Business:** None.

6. **Adjournment:** Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.