CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ETHICS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Michael Church, Chair; Patricia Agudow, Miklos Koleszar, Haroldo Williams

OTHERS: Atty. Brian Candela, Associate City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Church called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

NEW INTRODUCTION

There were no new introductions at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Atty. Candela said that he had received an email from Ms. Diane Lauricella who was unable to attend the meeting due to prior engagements and proceeded to read her statement into the record.

> Brian and Mario's Corporation Counsel, please give a copy of this to the Commission and read it into the official record.
>
> Michael Church, Chair of the Norwalk Ethics Commission, and Commissioners:
>
> Dear Ethics Commissioners – I hope that this email finds you well and ready to tackle the new year. I regret that I cannot attend tonight's meeting due to another obligation but from time to time I take a look at the important work that the Ethics Committee conducts.
>
> Tonight I ask the following:
>
> - When will this body hold a meeting or a webinar for the public so that they understand that an Ethics Commission exists?
> - Two – when will this body hold an introductory Ethics and Conflict of Interest Training session for sitting, appointed and elected officials?
> - Three – will you include accessible languages in order to advertise the public meetings?

In addition, as I read the back-up materials, I noticed several typos, but more importantly, was a bit puzzled by some of the language used. Let's always make sure that we use non-legalese phrases when possible. One example that may need clarification is found on back-up page 31, 32-11 about future employment. I strongly suggest that the word termination be substituted with the word separation so that it includes limitations for those staff that resign voluntarily.

Thank you for your work. Sincerely, Diane Lauricella.

Atty. Candela said that the Board had reviewed and updated the Code of Ethics and had been working on webinars for the public. He said that the material were in draft format and said that once that is completed, they will work with the City Departments to make them available.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

-- **October 27, 2022**

**** MS. AGUDOW MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2022 MEETING.**
**** MR. KOLESZAR SECONDED**.
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Church said that he would like to request that February 2023 meeting be in person. He said that if City Hall is not able to accommodate this request, the Board can meet at his office in the conference room there.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss Board of Ethics' draft slides concerning education and training programs for the City and its Officers and Employees.

Atty. Candela displayed the slide for Section 32-7 on screen. The Board then reviewed the wording and made several notes for clarifications. Mr. Church noted that the usage of pronouns had changed while the review of the Code was underway. He encouraged anyone to contact the Board if they see one that was not noticed.

**** MR. KOLESZAR MOVED TO CHANGE ALL USES OF THE PRONOUNS "HIS" OR "HER" TO THE GENDER NEUTRAL PRONOUN "THEIR".**
**** MR. WILLIAM SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Atty. Candela displayed the slide for Section 32-8 on screen. The Board then reviewed the wording of the section. Mr. Church said that the Board Members should remember that this slide was for a presentation rather than the actual code or the Citizen's Guide to Ethics. Several minor spelling errors were identified and corrected. There was also a discussion regarding the use of "germane" which was changed to "relevant".

Atty. Candela displayed the slide for Section 32-9 on screen. The Board then reviewed the wording of the section. Several stylist changes were noted along with a re-wording of the confidentiality code and retaliation.

Atty. Candela displayed the slide for Section 32-11 on screen. The Board then reviewed the wording of the section. A discussion followed about the length of time that a former officer must wait before a potential rehiring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KOLESZAR MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. WILLIAMS SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services