

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE COMMON BOARD OF ETHICS**

**DATE:** AUGUST 22, 2023

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** CITY HALL, OEM CONFERENCE ROOM, 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

**BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

DENNIS COHEN, EX OFFICIO  
JOHN LAFFEY, VICE CHAIR  
SEAN BARRAVECCHIO  
TORI PIECHOCNISKI  
ELIZABATH TRESTON

**NOT PRESENT:**

FELICIA SOLOMON, CHAIR

**MEETING MINUTES**

- Discussion regarding Vice Chairperson; Dennis Cohen made a motion to appoint John Laffey as the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Ethics.
  - Second motion made by Sean Patrick Bravecchio.
  - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.
- Discussion of Item No. 1 to review the Financial and Ethical Disclosure Forms, and if there are any recommended changes.
  - John Laffey suggests the forms to be posted and submitted online, to be easily forwarded to the Board of Ethics and City Council.
  - Dennis Cohen proposes to speak with City Manager to approve Information Technology to post forms online.
  - Elizabeth Treston and Tori Piechocniski recommends online submission forms to be proposed to Corporation Counsel, as a Policy and Procedure instead of an email.
  - Dennis Cohen made a motion to table Item No. 1 for next meeting, since Tori Piechocniski is receiving the forms for the first time to review and Felicia Solomon is not present.
    - Second motion made by Elizabeth Treston.
    - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.
  - Tori Piechocniski requests approval to send an email for potential proposal of format of online Financial Ethical and Disclosure Forms for IT Department; Dennis Cohen approved, but clarified no emails regarding Board of Ethics business are to be sent amongst Board Members.

- A motion made by Dennis Cohen to schedule the next Board of Ethics meeting for September 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
  - Second motion made by Tori Piechocniski.
  - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.
- Dennis Cohen made a motion to table Item No. 1 review of Financial and Ethical Disclosure Forms to September 26, 2023 Meeting.
  - Second motion made by John Laffey.
  - All in Favor, motion carries unanimously.
- Discussion of Item No. 2 as to which employees should file the Financial and Ethical Disclosure Forms for Ethics Board to make recommendations to City Council to adopt a resolution.
  - Elizabeth Treston suggests Purchasing Agent.
  - John Laffey suggests Detective Squad, all Department Heads, Policymakers, Directors, Accounting and Treasurer, including Purchasing Director.
  - Tori Piechocniski agreed.
  - Dennis Cohen suggests Department Heads and Directors.
  - John Laffey then suggests Long Beach Fire Department Volunteers.
  - Tori Piechocniski suggests the Fire Commissioner, rather than Fire Department Volunteers.
  - Sean Barravecchio suggests for Officers and Employees whose roles exercise negotiation and authorization of contracts.
  - Dennis Cohen suggests the Board of Ethics forwards each Department Head guidelines to analyze their department to see who would fits criteria. Once Department Head evaluates, submit the names/positions of who should be required to fill out Financial and Ethical Disclosure forms.
  - Tori Piechocniski inquires if our auditors have given us any guidance regarding employee interests and the Financial and Ethical Disclosure Forms.
    - Dennis Cohen responds no recommendations were given the last audit meeting, and Elizabeth Treston confirmed no guidance given the last three years as a City Council Member.
  - Dennis Cohen questions how the LBPD would react, then John Laffey states for the LBPD, the Police Commissioner, Executive Officer and Squad Commander; and for LBFD, the Fire Commissioner and the Captain.
  - Dennis Cohen makes a motion to table Item No. 2 for further discussion at the next meeting, September 26, 2023.
    - Second motion made by John Laffey.
    - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.
- Dennis Cohen states Item No. 3 Ethics Complaints will be required to go into Executive Session.
- Moving on to Item 4, due to the absence of Tori Piechocniski at BOE Meeting of July 25, 2023, and the absence of Felicia Solomon in current meeting a quorum is not present to vote, therefore Dennis Cohen makes a motion to table Item 4 the approval of July 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes to next meeting, September 26, 2023.
  - Second motion made by Sean Barravecchio.
  - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.
- Elizabeth Treston requests to recommend to City Council that the Board of Ethics consist of five people rather than eight specified in the City Charter.

- Dennis Cohen states the City has difficulty filling the seats of the board; currently he is the Ex Officio (voted as a voting member), and currently consists of five additional Board of Ethics Board Members.
  - If you have a fully constituted board of five then the quorum would be three.
  - Recommendation to change the City of Long Beach City Charter.
- Tori Piechocniski suggests five members and two alternates.
- Dennis Cohen will add the recommendation to the next meeting agenda.
- Tori Piechocniski inquired if unable to physically attend, are members allowed to ZOOM?
  - Elizabeth Treston states not able according to Open Meetings Law, due to requirement of public access.
- Dennis Cohen made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Item No. 3 Ethics Complaint.
  - Second Motion made by Sean Barravecchio.
  - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.
  - Elizabeth Treston recuses herself from Executive Session.
- Board came out of Executive Session. Motion was made to adjourn by Dennis Cohen.
  - Second Motion made by John Laffey.
  - All in favor, motion carries unanimously.