

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS HEARING BOARD
City of Pittsburgh Ethics Hearing Board (“Board” or “EHB”)
October 2, 2025
Conference Room 902 City-County Building (Ross St. Side Elevators)
414 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219 and Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:

Taya Cohen
Maryann Herman
Alex Matthews
Orlando G. Portela-Valentín
David Quinn

Staff and Others Present:

Leanne Davis, Executive Director

- I. **Call to order:** This meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m. by Board Chair, Maryann Herman. Preceding quorum, the members discussed an advisory matter in executive session.
- II. **Public Comment:** There was none.
- III. **Minutes:** Discussion of September 4, 2025 minutes. Alex Matthews moved to approve the minutes, Taya Cohen seconded the motion, the Board voted to approve, with David Quinn abstaining from the vote due to his absence at the September meeting.
- IV. **Legislation, recommended amendment to the Code of Conduct:**
 - a. By a motion from David Quinn, and seconded by Orlando Portela-Valentín, the Board voted unanimously to propose adding:

“No person whether or not within any named classifications set forth herein, shall aid, incite, compel, coerce or participate in conduct restricted by the Code of Conduct or obstruct or prevent enforcement of compliance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct or any rule, regulation or order of the Ethics Hearing Board, or attempt directly or indirectly to commit any act restricted by this Chapter.”
 - b. Discussion for this matter included review of model Code § 659.01, which has withstood judicial scrutiny. The Board also reviewed current Code § 197.11 Powers and Duties of the Board. (a) “....The Ethics Hearing Board may also act with respect to those who induce, encourage, or aid anyone to violate any provision of this Code, give gifts to officials and employees or their relatives, or are otherwise covered by the provisions of this Code.”

- c. **Additional Legislation/Policy:** The Board also discussed and indicated support for legislation or policy on three topics: (1) an ethics pledge; (2) a provision on mandatory reporting; and (3) an internal expedited enforcement processing system akin to the State Ethics Commission's failure to file section.
- V. Advisory Opinions:
 - a. Three advisory opinions were discussed.
 - i. 25-A-026 relating to privatization required more information.
 - ii. 25-A-023 relating to sponsorships was discussed resulting in declination of extended application by motion of Orlando Portela-Valentín, seconded by Alex Matthews, with all members voting in accordance with the motion.
 - iii. 25-A-024 relating to the land bank was discussed with Taya Cohen moving to approve, Orlando Portela-Valentín seconding, and the Board voting unanimously approve as amended.
- VI. Adjournment:
 - a. At 5:07 p.m. the Board adjourned.