DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES – July 10, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Ethics and Government Accountability held a hybrid meeting at the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, 1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 700 West, and virtually on July 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Norma Hutcheson and Board members Felice Smith, Darrin Sobin, and Charles Nottingham attended the meeting in person and Board member Melissa Tucker joined the meeting virtually.

Members of the public were welcome to attend, and a recording of the meeting is available on open-dc.gov and BEGA's YouTube channel.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Ascertainment of Quorum

Four Board members, Chairperson Hutcheson and Board members Smith, Sobin, and Tucker were present at the start of the meeting.

III. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of Minutes

The Board adopted the agenda and approved the minutes for the June 2025 meeting.

IV. Report by the Director of Open Government

Good morning, Chairperson Hutcheson, and Members of the Board. I am Niquelle Allen, Director of Open Government. I am pleased to present this report on the activities of the Office of Open Government ("OOG"). Our mission is to ensure that all persons receive full and complete information concerning the affairs of the District of Columbia government and the actions of its officials. Since the last Board meeting, OOG has continued its work to ensure that the District of Columbia government's operations are transparent, open to the public, and promote civic engagement. To that end, OOG has enforced the Open Meetings Act, advised on the Freedom of Information Act's requirements, and provided training on those transparency laws. OOG has proudly served as advocates for an open and transparent government.

A. Open Meetings Act ("OMA") and Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Advice

1. Advisory Opinions

   a. FOIA Advisory Opinion – DC FOIA and DC Government's FOIA Portal #OOG-2025-004_M

On June 12, 2025, I issued an Advisory Opinion #OOG-2025-004_M, in response to a complaint regarding DC Freedom of Information Act ("DC FOIA") requests and the DC government's FOIA Portal. I advised the complainant on the status of the complainant's DC FOIA requests and asserted that a failure to produce responsive records within the statutory period is a constructive "denial" of a DC FOIA request; a violation of DC FOIA, which is appealable. Further, the Advisory Opinion acknowledges that the DC FOIA requests may not have been fulfilled timely according to the requirements under statutes and regulations, and that DC FOIA permits agencies to establish rules for DC FOIA requests; however, again, failure to fulfill proper FOIA requests is violative of DC FOIA and appealable. Finally, I opined that users with accessibility challenges due to disability have multiple options for submitting a DC FOIA request other than via the FOIA portal, although compliance issues regarding government technology is the province of other DC agencies. A copy of the Advisory Opinion is in Dropbox.

b. OMA Advisory Opinion – Board of Trustees for Mary McLeod Bethune Public Charter School, #OOG-2025-0002

On June 27, 2025, I issued Advisory Opinion #OOG-2025-0002, in response to a complaint dated February 6, 2025, which alleged that the Mary McLeod Bethune Public Charter School Board (the "Board") posted meeting minutes for only one of it meetings since February 2024 and has not posted schedules for meetings since the school year ("SY") 2023-2024 schedule was published on the Mary McLeod Bethune Public Charter School's website. Also, the complainant expressed concern about the absence of links to access the Board's meetings.

I found that the Board violated the OMA as follows: (1) failure to post draft and final meeting minutes for specific Board meetings on its website and/or OOG's Central Meeting Calendar; and (2) failure to provide complete meeting notices for specific meetings - the location (valid dial in number and access code or valid weblink and login information). Further, I determined from the OOG's investigation that certain dates on the Board's schedules do not accord with the dates of the meetings on the Board's meeting agendas. Concerning the meeting schedule, OOG's investigation revealed that the Board's SY 2024-2025 meeting schedule is posted on the Public Charter School's website.

Since the Board is in violation of multiple OMA requirements, the Board must take OMA training within sixty (60) days of receipt of my Advisory Opinion to avoid further corrective action. The Complaint and Advisory Opinion have been added to Dropbox.

2. Informal Advice

Since the last Board meeting, OOG has responded informally, via e-mail, telephone, or teleconference to requests for assistance as follows:

14 requests for OMA advice;
8 requests for FOIA advice; and
10 requests for technical assistance with open-dc.gov.

B. Meeting Monitoring

OOG's staff attends public bodies' meetings, in person and remotely, to ensure compliance with the OMA. They also inspect public bodies' websites and OOG's Central Meeting Calendar for public meeting notices and records. OOG's attorneys provide legal advice on OMA compliance and take corrective action, if necessary.

Since the last Board meeting, OOG's legal staff have attended thirteen (13) public body meetings. As a result of the monitoring, one corrective measure was communicated. The public body failed to establish a quorum of its members before conducting public business pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

C. Training/Outreach

1. Office of Government Ethics' ("OGE") Ethics Training for Board of Ethics and Government Accountability ("BEGA") Employees

   On June 5, 2025, I, along with OOG's staff, attended in-person Ethics training presented by Office of Government Ethics' ("OGE") Supervisory Attorney Advisor Asia Stewart Mitchell. Among the areas covered at the training were ethical considerations concerning gifts to DC government employees, examples of what constitutes nepotism and the consequences for engaging in acts of nepotism, conflicts of interest, and the application of the Hatch Act.

2. Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") for the District of Columbia "Home Rule Act Training"

   On June 11, 2025, I, along with OOG's staff attended virtually and in-person, Office of Attorney General's ("OAG") "Home Rule Act Training" session facilitated by Kevin Hilgers, Assistant Attorney General, and Ben Moskowitz, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Legal Counsel Division, OAG. The training provided instruction about the history and implications of the Home Rule Act in the District of Columbia, which allowed DC residents to elect the Mayor, DC Councilmembers, and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners to run the day-to-day affairs of the District.

3. "Open Meetings Act Training for Boards of Trustees for DC Public Charter Schools"

   On June 11, 2025, Attorney Advisor Joan Lelma presented "Open Meetings Act Training for Boards of Trustees for DC Public Charter Schools." The training provided a description of OOG's functions and an in-depth examination of the application of the Open Meetings Act ("OMA") to public bodies (in particular, Boards of Trustees for DC PCS), with a brief question and answer section which covered meeting procedures under the OMA. This training was the second in OOG's 2025 educational training

series for Boards of Trustees for DC PCS. I, along with OOG's staff, attended the training virtually.

4. National Association of Attorneys General ("NAAG") Negotiation Skills Training

   On June 18, 2025, Attorney Advisor Anthony J Scerbo attended Negotiation Skills training facilitated by the National Association of Attorneys General. This intensive, learn-by-doing skills program covered negotiation and its practical application through a multiparty roleplaying scenario, with students learning how to: assess a client's interests, options, outcomes, and alternatives; negotiate effectively and productively by leveraging different negotiating styles; employ economic risk analysis in preparing for negotiations; overcome thinking errors that cause irrational behavior in negotiations; recognize and navigate negative emotions during a negotiation; and gain insight and information during the negotiation process, regardless of whether a negotiated resolution is reached.

5. "Making the Open Meetings Act Simple/(r)" Training to Department of Health Care Finance ("DHCF")

   On June 25, 2025, Attorney Scerbo presented "Making the Open Meetings Act Simple/(r)," training to Department of Health Care Finance ("DHCF") staff. The training provided a brief overview of the OMA with an emphasis on the key questions and challenges that OOG has identified facing most public bodies.

6. "A Primer on Open Meetings Laws" Training

   On June 26, 2025, I presented "A Primer on Open Meetings Laws," training to public bodies' members and their support staff. The training covered the history of open meetings laws in the United States and provided a historical context for the District's Open Meetings Act. I discussed case law regarding the public's access to government meetings and engaged attendees in a brief interactive question and answer segment of the training. OOG's staff attended the training virtually.

D. Litigation and Legislative Update

1. Litigation

   a. District of Columbia v. Terris, Pravlik & Millian, LLP (Case No. 21-CV-0543 (D.C. Court of Appeals))

      I previously reported on this case in which Travis, Pravlik & Millian, LLP ("TPM") sued the District under DC FOIA, alleging that the District failed to produce and post online various budget-related documents concerning the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). D.C. Superior Court denied the Mayor's Motion to Dismiss and granted TPM's Motion for Summary Judgment. The Court ordered the Mayor to produce the requested documents and to comply with the publication requirements of D.C. Code § 2-536. The Mayor appealed, arguing that the documents were protected by

executive privilege and that TPM lacked standing to enforce the publication provision.

On appeal, the D.C. Court of Appeals rejected the Mayor's claim of executive privilege, noting that the budgetary process involves overlapping responsibilities between the Mayor and the Council, and thus does not fall under the exclusive purview of the executive branch. The Court also found that TPM had standing to seek enforcement of the publication provision, as the failure to disclose the documents caused a concrete and particularized injury to TPM.

The Court affirmed the Superior Court's order requiring the production and online publication of the requested budget documents for fiscal years 2019 to the present. The Court vacated and remanded the portion of the order requiring the publication of other documents under D.C. Code § 2-536 and instructed the lower court to clarify the scope of the required publication. A copy of the Court's opinion has been added to Dropbox.

b. Gooch v. District (Metropolitan Police Dept.) (Case No. 2023-CAB-002404 (D.C. Super. Ct.))

I have previously reported on this case in which a Requester-Plaintiff sued the District for records "related to his…conviction." The Plaintiff had received partly redacted records.

The parties previously agreed to work on redactions, the Vaughn Index, and to provide updates at each status hearing. A status hearing was held on March 28, 2025. Following the status hearing, the Court issued an order directing the Plaintiff to file a Motion by May 12, 2025, describing the requests made for information, the information received that is still redacted, and the Plaintiff's basis for why the remaining redactions are insufficient as a matter of law.

On May 12, 2025, the Plaintiff filed a Motion challenging the sufficiency of the Defendant's most recent FOIA production. On June 11, 2025, the Defendant filed its Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion. The Plaintiff's reply is due July 11, 2025, and a Motions Hearing has been scheduled for September 2, 2025. A copy of the Defendant's Opposition has been added to Dropbox. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

c. David J. Rudometkin v. United States (Case No. 23-5180 (U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit))

David Rudometkin was found guilty of several offenses by a military judge in 2018 and sentenced to seventeen years of confinement. He filed a Post-Trial Motion for a mistrial after the judge was suspended for inappropriate conduct. A separate military judge denied his Post-Trial Motion. Subsequently, Rudometkin submitted FOIA requests to the Army and the Department of Defense for records related to the judges involved. The government either did not respond substantively or rejected the requests under FOIA exemptions.

Rudometkin filed a Pro se Complaint in District Court in 2020, challenging the government's withholding of records. He later amended his Complaint to focus solely on records related to the appointment of the Chief Trial Judge. The District Court granted the government's Motion for Summary Judgement, finding that the government had adequately searched for records and appropriately withheld information under the Exemption 5 deliberative-process privilege. The Court also denied Rudometkin's motions to amend his complaint to include his original FOIA claim regarding the Army's investigative records of the first judge.

On appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, found that the government did not establish that it properly withheld records under Exemption 5's deliberative-process privilege and had not shown that it released all reasonably segregable information. The Court reversed and remanded on the segregability issue. The Court of Appeal affirmed the District Court's denial of Rudometkin's motion to amend his complaint, as his FOIA claim regarding the Army's investigatory records of the first judge was now live in a separate action. A copy of the Court's opinion has been added to Dropbox.

d. Dr. Patrick Lenz v. Internal Revenue Service (Case No. 24-5276 (USCA D.C. Cir.)) Case No. 06-0599 (D.D.C.) (Formerly Pauline Stonehill v. Internal Revenue Service)

I have previously reported on this federal FOIA case, which is an attempt to overturn a longstanding ruling regarding a dispute concerning a federal FOIA production of documents. The facts of this case date back to 1962 and concern documents about an IRS judgment rendered against Henry Stonehill's business. Prior to passing away, Mr. Stonehill filed a suit regarding a federal FOIA production related to the IRS judgment. He claimed the IRS' search and production of records were deficient. The executor of his estate, Dr. Patrick Lenz, continues to pursue this matter, alleging the IRS failed to produce records regarding Mr. Stonehill's FOIA requests.

The matter is now on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and oral arguments have been scheduled for September 12, 2025. OOG's staff will continue to monitor.

2. Legislation

a. Legislative Action regarding the OMA: As I previously reported, Chairman Mendelson introduced B-26-200, the Open Meetings Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025. On June 10, 2025, the Bill was transmitted to Mayor Bowser. The Bill was returned from the Mayor and enacted on June 26, 2025, without the Mayor's signature, as Act Number A-26-0086. The Act is now in the congressional review period.

No additional legislative action has been taken on Utah Senator Mike Lee's U.S. Senate Bill 1450, which was introduced in April and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

A copy of the Act and U.S. Senate Bill have been added to Dropbox.

b. Legislative Action regarding the Boards of Trustees for DC Public Charter Schools: I have previously reported on Bill 26-0062, "the Board of Trustees Training Amendment Act of 2025," introduced by Councilmember Christina Henderson, on January 17, 2025. The Bill had its second reading on July 1, 2025, and passed unanimously.

At the Board's last meeting a copy of the Committee Report was provided in Dropbox. OOG's staff will continue to monitor this legislation.

c. Legislative Action regarding a government agency's interpretation of its administering statutes and regulations: Last month I reported on Bill 26-0048, the "Council Review of Agency Action Clarification Amendment Act of 2025," which was introduced by Chairman Mendelson, on Jan. 13, 2025. On June 24, 2025, the Committee of the Whole filed its Committee Report, and on July 1, 2025, Chairman Mendelson introduced an "amendment in the nature of a substitute" concerning the Bill. It passed unanimously on final reading.

The Bill codifies agency deference and clarifies that a reviewing court or tribunal shall defer to an agency's reasonable interpretation of a statute or regulation the agency administers, providing that the interpretation is not plainly wrong or inconsistent with the statutory or regulatory language or the Council's intent. The Bill is largely in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369 (2024).

The Board was provided with a copy of the Committee's Public Hearing Record at its last meeting, and the Amendment has been added to Dropbox.

d. Council's Proposed Resolution regarding the Rules of Organization and Procedures for the Council of the District of Columbia: In June 2025, the Council proposed Resolution "Council Period 26 Recess Rules Amendment Resolution of 2025." The Council amended its rules to strike numerous provisions related to its meetings, including the rules requiring its committee meetings to adhere to the OMA.

A copy of the Proposed Resolution has been added to Dropbox.

E. Administrative

FY26 Proposed Budget: On June 24, 2025, the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety (JPS) reported its recommendations for review and consideration by the Committee of the Whole. The report reflects BEGA's request that the Council adjust the Mayor's proposal to include funding for OOG's trial attorney position to enforce the OMA. The report also reflects BEGA's request that the Council reject the Mayor's proposal to have BEGA's non-lapsing funds (formerly "O-Fund") revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. BEGA also requested that the Council restore its non-personnel services (NPS) funds and supplement to personnel services (PS) funds to account for step increases. This request was not included in the report. The Committee of the Whole is considering the Circulation Draft of the JPS Committee Report, which recommends adoption of the

Mayor's proposed operating budget for BEGA. A copy of the draft Committee's Report with Recommendations is in Dropbox for your information.

This concludes the Office of Open Government's July 10, 2025, report. I am happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

Board member Sobin noted that the D.C. Bar recently hosted a program with former Washington Post reporter Miranda Spivak to discuss her book and work on secrecy in local government actions. At that event he had the opportunity to ask her about the Office of Open Government and she noted that while OOG was not a unique body, it was considered the gold standard for open government in the country.

Board member Nottingham joined the meeting during the report from Director Allen.

V. Report by the Director of Government Ethics

Good morning, Chairperson Hutcheson and Members of the Board. I am Ashley Cooks, the Director of Government Ethics. I am pleased to present this report on the activities of the Office of Government Ethics ("OGE").

A. Update on Status of OGE Investigations

The information reported today regarding OGE's cases will not reflect any status changes that may occur because of actions taken by the Board during today's meeting.

OPEN INVESTIGATIONS BY STATUS	
Open	43
Open - Negotiations	0
Open - Show Cause Hearing	1
Grand Total	44

OPEN "UNDOCKETED MATTERS"	
Grand Total	4

PENDING/STAYED INVESTIGATIONS BY STATUS	
Closed - Pending Collection	37
Stayed - Pending DC Superior Court Case	3
Stayed - OAG False Claims Act Case	0
Stayed - OIG Investigation	3
Stayed - US District Court Case	2
Grand Total	45

REGULATORY MATTERS BY STATUS	
Closed - Pending Collection	39
Open	63

Grand Total	102

	Current	Last month	April
Investigations Open	44	49	47
Investigations Stayed	8	8	9

The number of open preliminary and formal investigations includes 10 new matters. The investigative team resolved 15 investigations since the Board last met. This total does not reflect the number of complaints that were dismissed for a lack of jurisdiction.

The Quarterly Complaint Report for Quarter 3 of Fiscal Year 2025 is expected to be published by the end of July to the BEGA website with a press release and heatmap. We will include copies of each next month in the DropBox.

B. Training/Outreach

1. Professional Development Trainings Attended by Staff

   Chief of Staff Christina Mitchell attended the Mayor's Office of Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing Compliance Training. Senior Board Attorney Lynn Tran and I attended the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)'s COGEL Connect: Ethics Roundtable. General Counsel Rashee Raj attended Home Rule Act Training by the Office of Attorney General. Supervisory Investigator Ron Cook took Advancing Racial Equity MSS.

2. Conducted by staff

   Since the last Board meeting, OGE conducted 8 training sessions: an internal Ethics Refresher for our agency, three New Employee Orientation Ethics Segments, the June and July Monthly Ethics Trainings, a Board and Commission Training for the Events DC Board of Directors, and the June Monthly Brown Bag Session.

   On Monday, June 30th, Supervisory Attorney Advisor Asia Stewart-Mitchell presented the June Ethics Counselor Brown Bag Session titled Financial Disclosure 2025 Enforcement and Wrap-up. Twenty-four Ethics Counselors attended the session, and a copy of the presentation and a post-employment FDS job aid were placed in the DropBox.

   During the month of June, 505 employees completed ethics training using PeopleSoft. Two LMS training campaigns ended in June 2025. The first, an ANC training campaign, had 56 completions for ANC Ethics Training. The second, BEGA general campaign, had 411 course completions. Since the beginning of 2025, the LMS had 1,440 users complete 1,990 courses. The Training Team has been meeting with LRN to discuss creating new courses and updating existing courses to make them more accessible to users. Last month, OGE started to

identify low and underperforming courses to remove from our library of 29 available courses.

3. Outreach

Last month, OGE issued its bi-monthly newsletter, Ethically Speaking. A copy was placed in the Dropbox.

C. Advisory Opinions/Advice

1. Informal Advice

OGE's legal staff provided advice for approximately 30 ethics inquiries, which is 7 less than the 37 reported at the June Board meeting. This number does not include responses we have provided to questions regarding the Lobbyist and FDS e-filing systems.

2. Formal Advisory Opinions

OGE has two advisory opinions in the works on Widely Attended Gatherings and an edited Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Sign-on Letter opinion.

D. Legislation and Rulemaking Updates

1. 2026 Budget and Budget Support Act Proposal

On June 16th and 23rd, BEGA provided testimony and answered questions that we provided by the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. BEGA's proposed FY26 Budget remains the same which includes an increase of $139,131 to align personnel services and fringe benefits and a decrease of that amount in the non-personnel services fund. The FY25 Supplement Budget proposes to rescind $42,630 from BEGA local funds and $54,378 from special purposes revenue.

The proposed Budget Support Act includes severe changes to BEGA's operating budget. The Act will convert remaining funds in BEGA's Ethics Fund and Lobbyist Fund, which are non-lapsing accounts, to the general fund. The Ethics and Lobbyist accounts are derived from revenue collected for ethics fines and lobbying registration fees and fines. It was the Council's intent when drafting our enabling statute that those accounts remain separate from the District's general fund. Since the creation of this agency, the Ethics and Lobbyist funds have been used to supplement the local budget and to maintain the operations of the agency.

On June 24th, the Committee on Judiciary issued its Report and Recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for Agencies Under Its Purview. The Committee recommends that BEGA's special purposes revenue remain as non-lapsing funds based on its belief that it is important that these funds remain non-lapsing because BEGA's role as an independent ethics authority requires fiscal autonomy to operate without political interference. I'd like to publicly thank Council member

Pinto and the members of the Committee for supporting BEGA's budgetary needs and supporting the agency's mission and operations.

2. Lobbyist Registration and Reporting

OGE is in the process of amending the Lobbyist section of BEGA's regulations to make technical changes and clarify reporting requirements. Specifically, the amendments change the registration fee and late filing fine amounts to the new fee schedule that was implemented at the beginning of this fiscal year. The amendments will also include language that notifies registrants that the best course of action is to file a termination report when they don't intend to engage in lobbying activity. The proposed rulemaking was posted May 23rd, and the final date was June 23rd. No public comments were received. Two copies of the proposed rulemaking were placed in the Dropbox for the Board's review.

E. OGE Administrative Matters

1. Vacancies

OGE's has two vacancies, a Legal Fellow and Program Support Assistant. Both positions have been frozen as a result of the District's hiring freeze.

F. Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS)

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1162.24 and 1-1162.25, public officials and certain government employees must file a financial disclosure statement as a means of transparency and to prevent engaging in conduct that violates the financial conflicts of interest statute. BEGA is responsible for ensuring that employees and public officials, who meet the statutory requirement, file their annual financial disclosure statement.

The 2025 Financial Disclosure season has closed, and the FDS filing deadline was May 15th. OGE opened the season with 10,147 names in the e-filing system. Nearly all agencies have submitted FDRRs with addendums. Staff reviewed documents and adjusted the total number of designated filers to 9,603 filers. With the adjusted numbers, the 2025 FDS season had an overall completion rate of 92%. The next step is to finalize the enforcement list and send fine letters to nonfilers. As mentioned before, on Monday, June 30th, Supervisory Attorney Advisor Stewart-Mitchell presented the Ethics Counselor Brown Bag Session on Financial Disclosure 2025 Enforcement and Wrap-up.

G. Lobbying Registration and Reporting (LRR)

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1–1162.27(a), a person who receives compensation or expends funds in an amount of $250 or more in any 3-consecutive-calendar-month period for lobbying shall register with the Director of Government Ethics and pay the required registration fee. According to D.C. Official Code § 1–1162.30, each registrant shall file a quarterly report concerning the registrant's lobbying activities during the previous quarter.

A notice for 2nd Quarter Reporting was sent on June 16th with a reminder on June 30th. The 2nd Quarter Reporting deadline is July 15. On June 25th, Attorney Advisor Echols and Program Coordinator Kosick gave their quarterly Lobbyists Registration and Reporting Training. Staff are still reviewing and confirming enforcement for the first quarter, but lobbyist activity remains strong in 2025.

H. Public Investigations

1. 24-0016-F and 25-0002-F In re Trayon White – These are formal investigations based on: (1) the criminal indictment in which Respondent, Council member for Ward 8, alleged agreed to receive $156,000 in bribes and accepted $35,000 in cash from a business owner in exchange for assisting with renewing the company's violence-interruption contracts with the D.C. government; and (2) allegations that the Respondent violated the Code of Conduct by failing to file a full and complete public financial disclosure statements pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1–1162.24. Investigation 24-0016-F is stayed pending the outcome of the criminal court case, which is scheduled for trial on January 12, 2026.

Thank you. This concludes the Office of Government Ethics' July 10, 2025, report.

Board member Sobin noted that he was pleased the Councilmember Pinto and the committee recommended that BEGA retain its non-lapsing funds. He noted that when BEGA was created there was concern that BEGA be able to maintain some financial independence by retaining fees and fines. He also noted BEGA was fashioned after the New York City board but they do not have even this level of financial independence. Board member Sobin also commended the Directors for their work on this issue given the importance of maintaining these funds at BEGA.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VII. Executive Session (nonpublic)

The Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss ongoing, confidential investigations pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(14), to consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A), to discuss personnel matters including the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation, compensation, discipline, demotion, removal, or resignation of government appointees, employees, or officials pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(10), and to deliberate on a decision in which the Ethics Board will exercise quasi-judicial functions pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(13).

VIII. Resumption of Public Meeting

The meeting resumed at 11:39 a.m.

The Board approved negotiated dispositions in the following matters:

24-0070-P In re A Hannah
24-0124-P In re N. Smith
24-0141-P In re B. Irving
25-0070-P In re T. Clements

The Board approved a Notice of Violation in **25-0002-F In re Trayon White**.

The Board will meet next on August 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.