

Minutes

WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226 and via
Zoom

- A. Roll Call 9:30 a.m.

Philip J. Thomas, Chair	– Present
Ketra Lewis, Vice-Chair	– Present
Dr. Demetrius E. Ford	– Present
William C. Schaefer	– Absent
Frank D. Woods Jr.	– Present
2 Vacancies	

Also attending: Board Attorney Charles Longstreet.

- B. Approval of the December 20, 2023 meeting minutes

Woods/Ford	Approved: The minutes from the December 20, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.
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- C. Unfinished business

1. Update from the Commission staff, re: Proposed Ethics Ordinance amendment status

Mary Parisien, Assistant Commission Counsel, said that the Office of Commission Counsel is still reviewing proposed changes to the Ethics Ordinance. Chair Thomas said he's hoping the Board gets a substantive report at its March 20th meeting.

2. Communication dated December 12, 2023 (received December 12, 2023) from Reginald Crawford, re: a violation of Sec. 40-2 Gratuity and Relative and Sections 40-4 Stand of Conduct, (b)(1) Gifts and Gratuities, Standards of conduct, of the Ethics Ordinance by Sheriff Raphael Washington

- a. Communication from David Melton, Counsel to Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington, re: response to Reginald Crawford's complaint.

Chair Thomas asked Todd Perkins, who is Sheriff Washington's attorney, to speak. Mr. Perkins presented his reasons for the complaint to be dismissed. Discussion among Board members with Mr. Perkins.
Chair Thomas asked the complainant, Reginald Crawford, to speak. Mr. Crawford presented his reasons as to why there should be a hearing.

Discussion among Board members with Mr. Crawford and Mr. Longstreet.

Chair Thomas asked that Mr. Perkins deliver concluding remarks, and he complied.

Chair Thomas asked that Mr. Crawford deliver concluding remarks, and he complied.

There was discussion among members.

Ford/Woods

Approved: Motion to dismiss the complaint and not hold a hearing based on the evidence presented.

3 yeas (Lewis, Ford and Woods), 1 nay (Thomas).

D. New Business

1. Communication dated February 6, 2024 (received February 6th) from Charlotte Anderson, re: property

Chair Thomas requested Mr. Longstreet to address Charlotte Anderson's query, to which Mr. Longstreet agreed.

2. Discussion regarding the rules on Public Comments.

Chair Thomas asked Mr. Longstreet to create public comment guidelines modeled after those of the Wayne County Commission and to present them for approval during the March 20th meeting.

Discussion among Board members with meeting clerk Octavia Hunter.

E. Such other matters as may be properly submitted by the Board

Chair Thomas called on Joe Slezak, Commission policy analyst, who said that Prosecutor Kym Worthy has put forward Dr. Patricia Edwards as a nominee to join the Board. Dr. Edwards is expected to take her seat at the March 20th meeting

Chair Thomas called on Ms. Hunter, who said that County offices would be closed on June 19th for the Juneteenth holiday. Mr. Thomas suggested rescheduling the meeting to 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12th, and the Board approved the proposal. Ms. Hunter indicated that the meeting would take place in the Commission Chambers due to Committee meetings being slated for Hearing Room 704 on that day.

Chair Thomas called on Mr. Slezak for a status update regarding the seventh vacant seat. Mr. Slezak reported that he had conversed the previous week with Register of Deeds Bernard Youngblood, who confirmed that he is actively seeking a candidate for the position.

F. Public comments

Comments offered by Reginald Crawford, Rev. John W. Taylor and Ted L.

Discussion among Board members and Mr. Longstreet with Rev. Taylor.

Discussion among Board members with Ted L.

Ms. Hunter read comments from Dr. Patricia Edwards.

G. Adjournment

Ford/Woods
Adjournment at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Octavia Hunter
Legislative Research Assistant

