

Wayne County Ethics Board

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To: **Via Electronic Mail**
Hon. Warren C. Evans, Wayne County Executive
Hon. Eric Sabree, Wayne County Treasurer
Hon. Raphael Washington, Wayne County Sheriff
Hon. Alisha R. Bell, Wayne County Commission Chair
Hon. Kym L. Worthy, Wayne County Prosecutor
Hon. Bernard Youngblood, Wayne County Register of Deeds
Hon. Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County Clerk

From: Wayne County Ethics Board

Re: 2022 Year-End Report

Dear Honorable Elected Officials:

The Wayne County Ethics Board submits, pursuant to Wayne County Ethics Ordinance, Enrolled Ordinance No. 2014-734, Section 40-7(a)(4), the Wayne County Ethics Board 2022 year-end summary of action report.

ADVISORY ETHICS OPINIONS.

In the 2022 physical year, the Wayne County Ethics Board issued the following Ethics Advisory opinions related to the following matters:

In Re: Suadad Altimeemi.

Mr. Suadad Altimeemi, an engineer with the Wayne County Department of Public Service, requested an ethics opinion regarding his desire to seek employment with HNTB Corporation Detroit (HNTB).

HNTB is a company that currently has contracts with the County of Wayne; The Ethics Board determined that Mr. Altimeemi's employment with the Wayne County Department of Public Services would be a direct conflict of interest with his desire to seek employment with HNTB Corp.

Wayne County Ethics ordinance 40-4(a)(3)(c) prohibits a public servant from seeking employment with any county business or with another party who is likely to become a party to a contract. HNTB Corp is a business that currently has contracts with Wayne County.

Mr. Altimeemi was advised that seeking or negotiating employment with HNTB would violate the Wayne County Ethics ordinance.

In Re: Mamata Burgi

At the time of her request for information, Ms. Mamata Burgi was the Wayne County Department of Procurement Director. Ms. Burgi formally inquired if the Wayne County Ethics Board has a process for employees to seek the Board's opinion on work-related matters.

Ms. Burgi was advised that the Wayne County Ethics Board's ethics opinions are currently limited to inquiries of acts that may violate the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance. Ms. Burgi was notified that the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance does not directly address her particular questions to work matters unrelated to violations of the ethics ordinance.

FORMAL ETHICS BOARD COMPLAINTS.

In the 2022 physical year, the Wayne County Ethics Board received addressed and adjudicated the following ethics board formal complaints:

In Re: Giovanna Foster

Ms. Giovanna Foster filed a complaint with the Wayne County Ethics Board against Christnet Services and Wayne Metro Community Action Agency. Ms. Foster sought to remedy a lack of services being provided to her along with several incognizable complaints against Wayne Metro Community Action Agency and Christnet Services.

Both organizations are community-based organizations providing housing assistance to the homeless and other social services to the community. However, neither organization is associated with Wayne County Government nor within the purview of the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance. Ms. Foster's complaint was dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

In Re: Duane Williams

Mr. Duane Williams, a citizen, filed a formal complaint with the Wayne County Ethics Board against the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

Mr. Williams sought to remedy what he believes to be errors and omissions related to an August 21, 2012, autopsy report. Mr. Williams made claims of misconduct against Dr. Carl Schmidt, Dr. Lokman Sung, and Dr. Alicia Williams of the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

Mr. William's complaint failed to cite any applicable Wayne County Ethics Ordinance

standard and adequately establish a violation of the ordinance. Finally, Mr. Williams failed to properly file his complaint according to the Wayne County Ethics ordinance requirements 40-7(c)(1). Mr. William's.

In Re: John Taylor

Mr. Taylor filed a formal complaint with the Wayne County Ethics Board against the Wayne County Jail/ Wayne County Sheriff's Department and Wayne County Sheriff Ralph Washington.

Mr. Taylor is a volunteer minister at the Wayne County Jail. Mr. Taylor complains of difficulty completing a new Wayne County Sheriff's Department security clearance form and being bound to the security clearance terms, conditions, and provisions without being fully advised as to all the requirements.

Mr. Taylor's complaint failed to cite any applicable Wayne County Ethics Ordinance standard and adequately establish a violation of the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance. However, the issues presented in Mr. Taylor's complaint were of concern to the Wayne County Ethics Board.

The Board determined that a duty of fundamental fairness and transparency was owed to citizen volunteers. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department should provide notice and a copy of any laws, regulations, or rules that the Wayne County Sheriff's Department requires that citizen volunteers agree to comply with in writing. At a minimum, the department should direct citizen volunteers to a website where they can easily find such information.

The Board dismissed Mr. Taylor's complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The Board issued a letter of concern to Wayne County Sheriff Ralph Washington, addressing the concerns of Mr. John Taylor and the Board.

In Re: Jacqueline Broxton

Ms. Jacqueline Broxton filed a formal complaint with the Wayne County Ethics Board against the Wayne County Sheriff's Foreclosure Auction Sales Department / Wayne County Sheriff's Department and Wayne County Sheriff Deputy LaShana Cooper.

Ms. Broxton is a citizen business investor and participant in the Wayne County Sheriff's foreclosure auction sales. Ms. Broxton's complaint alleged multiple violations of Section 40-4 of the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance. Her complaint made numerous allegations of fraud, bribery, misconduct, and preferential treatment to privileged investors. Moreover, Ms. Broxton alleged misappropriation of funds she provided to the Wayne County Foreclosure Auction, retaliation for lodging a complaint against the auctioneer, and unjust suspension of her bidding privileges.

The Board determined that most of Ms. Jackson Broxton's complaint was highly speculative. However, her claims of misappropriation of funds and retaliation did meet the minimum

requirements of Section 40-7(c)(1) of the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance, and the Board requested a response from the Wayne County Sheriff's Foreclosure Auction Sales Department.

This matter is currently pending a formal hearing.

40-7(C)(3) CRIMINAL REFERRALS

In the 2022 physical calendar year, the Wayne County Ethics Board made no referrals pursuant to 40-7(c)(3):

MISCELLANEOUS BOARD ACTION.

In the 2022 physical year, the Wayne County Ethics Board created two subcommittees to address and resolve the following matters:

Subcommittee to Select New Ethics Board Counsel

Due to the unfortunate and untimely death of attorney Avery Williams who served as the Wayne County Ethics Board's outside counsel from 2016 until his passing in July of 2021, the Wayne County Ethics Board formed a subcommittee to select a suitable replacement for Mr. Avery Williams.

The subcommittee was commissioned in October 2020. Over two months, the subcommittee contacted, interviewed, and vetted twelve initial candidates resulting in three, from which one was selected. On January 19, 2022, the selection subcommittee submitted its report to the Board. The subcommittee presented three candidates for consideration. At the conclusion of the subcommittee's report and discussion of candidates, the Wayne County Ethics Board selected Attorney Charles Oliver Longstreet II to serve as successor counsel to Mr. Avery Williams Esq.

Subcommittee On Revised Ethics Ordinance.

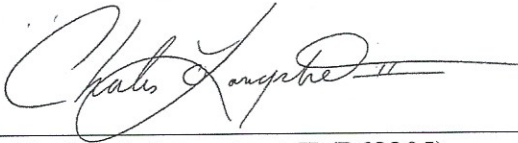
In April of 2022, the Wayne County Ethics Board commissioned a subcommittee to review the proposed 2020 changes to the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance. Over five months, the subcommittee conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed revisions of the prior subcommittee for ethics ordinance revisions. Moreover, the subcommittee made multiple additions, deletions, and revisions to the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance.

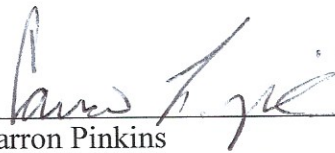
On October 1, 2022, the subcommittee submitted its final revisions of the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance to the Board. After careful consideration and additional modifications, the Board approved the final edits on October 14, 2022, for submission to the Wayne County Commission for approval. On November 17, 2022, the proposed 2022 Wayne County Revised Ethics Ordinance was personally served to the Wayne County Commission for consideration and approval.

This report is submitted in compliance with Wayne County Ethics Ordinance, Enrolled Ordinance No. 2014-734, Section 40-7(a)(4), which states that:

By December 15 of each year, the board shall submit to all appointing elected officials a written summary of the year's actions.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Charles O. Longstreet II (P68205)
Wayne County Ethics Board Counsel

Approved By: 
Carron Pinkins
Wayne County Ethics Board Chairman