



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

Legal Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Danielle Pacik, City Solicitor
DATE: August 6, 2024
SUBJECT: Board of Ethics - June 24, 2024 and July 29, 2024 Meetings

Recommendation

It is recommended that City Council:

1. Review this report for informational purposes and the attached minutes from the meeting of the Board of Ethics held on June 24, 2024 relative to the ethics complaints dismissed by the Board of Ethics; and
2. Accept this report and the recommendation of the Board of Ethics relative to a complaint filed against Gregory Bakos, the Chair of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee.

Discussion

1. Ethics Complaints Dismissed – June 24, 2024 Meeting

The Board of Ethics Rules, Article III (D)(6)(e), requires notification to the City Council when the Board determines that a complaint does not merit the scheduling of a public hearing.

On June 24, 2024, the Board of Ethics conducted a meeting to review ethics complaints received through June 1, 2024. The minutes from that meeting are attached. The Board of Ethics unanimously voted to dismiss the ethics complaints filed against Councilor Ali Sekou and Planning Board Member Earle Pierce on the basis that the complaints did not merit the scheduling of a public hearing. The Board of Ethics also unanimously voted to dismiss four out of the five allegations against Councilor Stacey Brown. A hearing will be scheduled in the future relative to the remaining allegation against Councilor Stacey Brown.

A hearing was held on July 29, 2024 relative to a complaint filed against Gregory Bakos, the outcome of which is discussed in the following section of this report.

2. Ethics Complaint Recommendation – July 29, 2024

The City of Concord Code of Ordinances, Section 30-3-29(a)(4) requires the Board of Ethics to make findings of fact and recommend action to the City Council after a hearing.

A hearing was held on July 29, 2024 relative to the complaint against Gregory Bakos, the Chair of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee. The draft minutes from that meeting are attached.

The Board unanimously made the following finding: “Although innocently intended, the introduction of information was an action that raised the possibility of a conflict of interest. However, given the City’s understanding of the relationship with VHB, the Board of Ethics concludes that the actions taken at the January 25, 2024 meeting did not affect the interests of Mr. Bakos’s employer.” The Board of Ethics unanimously voted to recommend to the City Council that the Council vote for innocence of any wrongdoing by Mr. Bakos.