
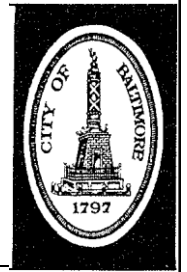


FROM	NAME & TITLE	The Hon. Bill Henry Baltimore City Comptroller 
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of the Comptroller Room 204, City Hall
	SUBJECT	Board of Estimates – Resolution on Abstentions Abstention Policy

CITY of
BALTIMORE

MEMO



December 15, 2020

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

The Board of Estimates is requested to approve a Resolution Relating to Abstentions. This Resolution creates a formal abstention policy for members of the Board. Under the Resolution, Board members are required to submit a dated memo to the Comptroller’s Office the day before each scheduled Board meeting date. The memo will note the page number of the member’s abstention, the item, and the reason for the abstention.

The memo will be posted on the Board of Estimates’ website concurrently with the weekly agenda. The Clerk of the Board of Estimates will read the abstentions aloud at the beginning of each meeting. The Comptroller’s office will maintain a running list of abstentions on the BOE website.

The Baltimore City Public Ethics Law, in Article 8, Subtitle 6 of the City Code, outlines the City’s Conflict of Interest policies. Members should refer to staff of the Baltimore City Board of Ethics, within the Office of the Inspector General, for guidance on abstentions or considerations.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDS:

No general funds are involved in this transaction.

BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION:

The Resolution Relating to Abstentions will establish a formal abstention policy for members of the Board of Estimates. In the past, it has been the practice for Board members to submit an abstentions list to the Comptroller’s Office recording the page number and item of an abstention. Abstentions have been read out loud at the beginning of each Board meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Comptroller’s Office has developed the Resolution Relating to Abstentions so that reasons for Board Members’ abstentions are explicitly stated and accessible to the public in the interest of government transparency. This policy has been drafted with input from staff of the Baltimore City Board of Ethics.

The Law Department has approved the Resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:

N/A

BALTIMORE CITY RESIDENTS FIRST (BCRF):

N/A

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

Clerk

Date