Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct
Minutes of Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

The Board of Ethical Conduct held a meeting on this date in Council Committee Room 1 on the Second Floor of the Historic Courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee.

Persons in Attendance:

Diane DiIanni, Board Chair
Kaymi Butler, Board Member
Brigid Carpenter, Board Member
Chris Sabis, Board Member
Kinika Young, Board Member
Delishia Porterfield, Ex-Officio Board Member

Nicki Eke, Legal Counsel
Austin Kyle, Metropolitan Clerk
Shawn Reed, Deputy Metropolitan Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment Period

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2025

Mr. Sabis moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2025, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (5): DiIanni, Butler, Carpenter, Sabis, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0).

Announcement of Appeal Rights

The Clerk announced that parties who disagree with a final decision of the Board may appeal by filing a writ of certiorari with the Davidson County Chancery Court within sixty (60) days of entry of the Order, and parties are encouraged to seek independent legal advice to ensure that applicable procedures and deadlines are properly followed.

Hearing for complaint: John Spragens et al. v. Fair Board Commissioner Jasper Hendricks

Chair DiIanni called the hearing to order and asked for the parties to identify themselves. Complainants John Spragends and Erica Lanier were in attendance, and Rita Roberts-Turner and Saul Solomon identified themselves as legal counsel for the complainants. The respondent Jasper Hendricks was also in attendance. Chair DiIanni asked if there were any motions or stipulations and the parties indicated that there were none.

Chair DiIanni noted a discrepancy in the materials submitted by the complainants, in that the physical copies contained additional exhibits not included in the digital version previously distributed to the Board and the respondent. Exhibits 10 through 13 were not provided to the respondent seven days in advance as required by the Metro Code of Laws. The Board decided to proceed with opening statements, acknowledging the seven-day advance notice rule is strictly enforced and the admissibility of these exhibits would be addressed later.

Mr. Sabis disclosed a prior professional relationship with complainant John Spragens but acknowledged that there was no personal or financial relationship that would require recusal. Ms. Young also wanted to put on the record that Mr. Spragens had previously been a member of the Board of Ethical Conduct. It was noted that Mr. Spragens prior service on the Board is a matter of public record and was not an issue.

Chair DiIanni offered the opportunity to provide opening statements to both parties. Counsel Rita Roberts-Turner offered an opening statement on behalf of the complainants. Jasper Hendericks delivered his opening statement.

Chair DiIanni called on the counsel for the complainants to begin their case-in-chief. Counsel Roberts-Turner called for complainant Erica Lanier to come forward as the first witness. Ms. Lanier was sworn in and provided her full name for the record. Counsel Roberts-Turner began direct examination of the witness. The Board asked clarifying questions during the testimony. After direct examination concluded, Mr. Henricks cross-examined the witness. After further questioning from the Board, the witness was excused.

At this time in the hearing, Chair DiIanni called for a brief recess. Chair DiIanni reconvened the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Counsel Solomon called for complainant John Spragens to come forward as the first witness. Mr. Spragens was sworn in and provided his full name for the record. Counsel Solomon began direct examination of the witness. The Board asked clarifying questions during the testimony. The Chair raised the question about the admissibility of the complainants' Exhibits 10 through 13. After further discussion, Mr. Hendricks had no objection to the consideration of these exhibits. After direct examination concluded, Mr. Henricks cross-examined the witness. After further questioning from the Board, the witness was excused.

Counsel Roberts-Turner stated that they had no further witnesses for the complainant. Chair DiIanni called on the respondent to begin their case-in-chief and Mr. Hendricks was sworn in and provided his full name for the record. The board asked Mr. Hendricks questions.

Chair DiIanni called for a brief recess before cross-examination of the witness. Chair DiIanni reconvened the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Counsel Solomon began cross-examination of the witness. After further questioning from the Board, the witness was excused. The Counsel for the complainants declined to offer a rebuttal case.

Chair DiIanni called for a recess prior to hearing closing arguments. Chair DiIanni reconvened the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Chair DiIanni offered both parties the opportunity to provide closing arguments. Counsel Roberts-Turner provided closing arguments on behalf of the complainant. Mr. Hendricks provided closing arguments.

Chair DiIanni called for the Board to move to deliberate on the matter. The Board decided to consider the three allegations separately.

The first allegation that the Board deliberated was that Mr. Hendricks accepted free admission and access to a private event as a guest of Bristol, a vendor seeking major contract approval from the Fair Board. After discussion, Ms. Carpenter moved for the Board to find that Mr. Hendrick's conduct in accepting the pass and attending the 2023 gala did not constitute a violation of Metro Code Section 2.222.020(e), which motion was properly seconded. After discussion, Ms. Carpenter amended the motion and moved that the Board find that Mr. Hendricks accepting the pass to attend the 2023 NASCAR Gala did not violate Metro Code Sections 2.222.020(e) or (s), which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (4): DiIanni, Butler, Carpenter, and Young; "Noes" (1): Sabis; "Abstain": (0). Chair DiIanni declared that motion was adopted.

The Board moved to deliberate on the allegation that Mr. Hendricks disclosed to the news media confidential information regarding a proposed deal for redevelopment of the Speedway. After discussion, Mr. Sabis moved that the Board did not find sufficient evidence of a violation of Metro Code Section 2.222.020(l), which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (4): DiIanni, Butler, Carpenter, and Sabis; "Noes" (1): Young; "Abstain": (0). Chair DiIanni declared that motion was adopted.

The Board moved to deliberation on the allegation that Mr. Hendricks conspired with Bristol by requesting and accepting public relations instructions on public statements and media communications concerning redevelopment of the Speedway from Bristol's representative. After discussion, Ms. Young moved that the Board find, that based on a preponderance of evidence, that Chair Jasper Hendricks did violate Metro Code Section 2.222.020(k) based on his conduct, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (4): DiIanni, Carpenter, Sabis, and Young; "Noes" (0); "Abstain" (1): Butler. Chair DiIanni declared that Board did find a violation of the Standards of Conduct in regard to this allegation and that the Board would now decide on appropriate sanctions.

Chair DiIanni called for a recess prior to discussing sanctions. Chair DiIanni reconvened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Chair DiIanni gave a summary of the sanctions that are available to the Board to consider when a Standard of Conduct violation is found.

After discussion, Mr. Sabis moved that the Board provide a written warning to Mr. Hendricks, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (5): DiIanni, Butler, Carpenter, Sabis, and Young; "Noes" (0); "Abstain": (0). Chair DiIanni declared that motion was adopted. Chair DiIanni directed the Board to deliberate on the language to include in the written warning and inquired with the Department of Law about the availability of ethics training. Legal

Counsel Eke indicated that the Department of Law could provide a PowerPoint presentation for ethics training. After discussion, Chair DiIanni moved that a written warning would be prepared and sent to the Vice Mayor and the Executive Director of the Fair Board, and that warning would include a request to Mr. Hendricks to take the ethics training provided by the Department of Law and to prepare a disclosure to the Board members and Executive Director of the Fair Board listing all affiliations and relationships with NASCAR, any racetrack owners, and any racing teams, and that the disclosure will be distributed prior to any vote involving these issues and no later than 60 days from today's date. The motion also delegated authority to the Chair to work with the Department of Law to finalize the exact wording of the written warning, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (5): DiIanni, Butler, Carpenter, Sabis, and Young; "Noes" (0); "Abstain": (0). Chair DiIanni declared that motion was adopted.

Next Steps/Scheduling

The Board will meet on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 9:00 am for discussion and analysis of the complaint and the Department of Law's memorandum re: Chris Remke, et al v. Council Member Rollin Horton.

Adjournment

Upon motion properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.