

Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct
Minutes of Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

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

Persons in Attendance:

Kinika Young, Board Chair
Diane DiIanni, Board Member
Allen King, Board Member
Chris Sabis, Board Member
David Wicker, Jr., Board Member
Councilmember Delishia Porterfield, Ex-Officio Board Member

Nicki Eke, Legal Counsel
Abby Greer, Legal Counsel
Austin Kyle, Metropolitan Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment Period

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2026

Ms. DiIanni moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2026, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (5): Young, DiIanni, King, Sabis, and Wicker; “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.

Discussion and Analysis of Complaint and Department of Law’s memorandum re: Melanie Cochran and Elizabeth ML Sullivan v. Councilmember Courtney Johnston

Chair Young called on the Department of Law to provide a summary of the report on the complaint. Attorney Eke indicated that it’s the opinion of the Department of Law that allegations in the complaint that the Councilmember violated the Mayor’s Executive Order No. 22, if true, would not give rise to an ethical violation, since the Executive Order does not apply to members of Council, and recommended dismissal of that allegation. Attorney Eke indicated that the allegations concerning the Councilmember’s failure to divulge her position as a member of the board of

directors of MCCM on annual disclosure statements, if true, would give rise to a violation of the Standards of Conduct. It is also the Department of Law's opinion that allegations that the Councilmember deliberated and voted on a zoning change requested by an investor group that has offered MCCM a potential location in the development if the zoning change is approved, while also working with the investor group on the rezoning in her capacity as a board member of MCCM, if true, could be deemed to be a violation of the Standards of Conduct. Attorney Eke indicated that the Department of Law recommends that a hearing be held on allegations concerning violations of sections 2.222.020(k), 2.222.020(q), and 2.222.020(r) of the Standards of Conduct.

After discussion, Mr. Sabis moved to adopt the recommendations of the Department of Law by dismissing the allegation regarding a violation of Executive Order 22, and to hold a hearing on the potential violations of Metro Code Sections 2.222.020(k), 2.222.020(q), and 2.222.020(r) which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (5): Young, Dilanni, King, Sabis, and Wicker; "Noes" (0); "Abstain" (0).

Next Steps/Scheduling

Chair Young proposed potential meeting dates for Board members and involved parties to consider. After discussion, the hearing is tentatively scheduled for either June 29, 2026 or June 30, 2026 pending confirmation of the availability of Councilmember Johnston.

Adjournment

Upon motion properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.