

**Minutes - Pending Committee Approval**  
**Law Rules Ethics Committee Meeting**  
**September 9, 2019**  
Board Office  
5676 Riverdale Avenue  
Suite 100

**Attendance:** Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Jyll Townes, Carlos Wilcox

**Absent:** Dan Padernacht, I. William Stone,

**Guests:** Rosemary Ginty, Bd. 8 Chair, Laura Spalter, Bd. 8 vice-Chair

**I. Meeting called to order at 7:05**

**II. Introduction of new committee members**

A. Chairman welcomed Jyll Townes as a new committee member

**III. Chairman's request to amend the agenda to add two items was approved.**

**IV. Carlos Wilcox**

A. The committee expressed its best wishes to Carlos Wilcox on his planned departure on the following morning to attend Dartmouth College. Chairman also thanked Carlos for his contributions to the committee and the board.

**B. IV. Approval of May 2019 minutes**

**Unanimous approval**

**Yes: (4):** Sylvia Alexander, Jyll Townes, Carlos Wilcox, Martin Wolpoff

**No: (0) Abstentions: (0)**

**V. By-Laws Amendment**

A. At the direction of the City, Borough Presidents were required to charge community boards with incorporating into their by-laws a methodology for creating ad hoc Disciplinary committees should the incidence of a charge emanating between and among board members, members of the public and non-union members of the community board. Matters that are in violation of criminal statutes, or matters subject to the City's EEO policy, are not to be considered by the committee. Documents emanating from the Borough President were shared with the committee.

B. A resolution to amend CB 8's bylaws, drafted by the Board's officers was shared with the committee. A motion to forward the resolution to the full board was unanimously approved.

C. Reminder that a bylaws amendment requires approval by the full board at two consecutive meetings.

**Whereas**, the Office of the Bronx Borough President has established a "Discipline Policy & Procedure for Community Boards"; and,

**Whereas**, in accordance with the policy, the first level of disciplinary review will be at the community board level; and,

**Whereas**, the community board must amend their by-laws to establish a disciplinary committee to review complaints lodged by community board members, members of the public and non-union members of the community boards; and,

**Whereas**, Article VI, Section 7 C. of community board 8's by-laws already allows a committee to be constituted to consider an ethics opinion; and,

**Whereas**, it is the intention of community board 8 to amend their by-laws to establish a process to establish a disciplinary committee; therefore,

**Be It Resolved** that Article VI, Section 7 C. of the by-laws be amended by adding the following underlined bold language:

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee – Membership on the Law, Rules and Ethics Committee shall consist of those Appointed Board Members who are attorneys at law and other interested Appointed Board Members. When an issue arises requiring an ethics opinion or disciplinary action, an ad hoc committee shall be constituted as follows: The Board Chairperson shall appoint two (2) officers of the Board; the Chairperson of the Law, Rules and Ethics Committee shall appoint a Law Committee member as counsel/voting member. Nothing herein shall prevent the Board Chairperson or the Law, Rules and Ethics Chairperson from designating themselves, except that the following criteria shall be used: If issues arise requiring convening of the ad hoc ethics or disciplinary committee more than once between July 1 of any year and June 30 of the ensuing year, the appointees shall be rotated, so that no person serves twice; and the appointees shall have no interest, financial or otherwise, which would create a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict, in carrying out their function. Participation in the ethics or disciplinary committee on an ad hoc basis shall not constitute Committee membership for the purpose of fulfilling each Member's obligation to join two committees. Membership on this Committee shall contribute toward fulfillment of a Board member's obligation to join two committees.

**Unanimous approval**

**Yes: (4):** Sylvia Alexander, Jyll Townes, Carlos Wilcox, Martin Wolpoff

**No: (0)**

**Abstentions: (0)**

**VI. Issuance of Conflict of Interest rules concerning Community Board Members**

- A. The COIB is conducting public hearings concerning the adoption of rules regarding community board service.
- B. Chairman distributed copies of the existing summary of rules from the COIB. He noted that he didn't see any significant differences

**VII. City Council Legislative spreadsheet**

- A. Chairman again commended Rosemary Ginty for the excellent job she had done in maintaining an updated grid sheet tracking resolutions considered by the City Council. Chairman apologized for not keeping up to date tracking and for not being as accurate as Ms. Ginty had been. Chairman promised to distribute the grid by the end of the week.

**VIII. Conflict of Interest Board Settlements**

- A. Committee received and briefly discussed the COIB settlements published on March 21, May 7, May 14, June 5, June 14.

**IX. City Council Charter Revision Commission**

Chairman distributed copies ballot proposals for the Nov 5 vote for proposals from the City Council's Charter Revision Commission. The 19 proposals, in the 5 categories were reviewed.

**X. Next Meeting**

The proposed date for the next LRE meeting falls on October 14, Columbus Day. The proposed November date, November 11, is Veterans Day. It was decided to forego the October meeting and reschedule for November. For the November meeting, the committee review the Board's Ethical Guidance Manual.

- XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:00

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Martin Wolpoff, Chair