

## Philadelphia Land Bank

### Public Disclosure and Disqualification Procedure for Conflict Issues

A Member of the Land Bank Board who in the discharge of the Member's official duties has one of the following "Conflict Issues":

- (1) an adverse interest as defined in the State Adverse Interest Act (71 P.S. § 776.1 *et seq.*);
- (2) a conflict of interest as defined in the Public Officials and Employees Ethics Act (65 Pa.C.S.A. § 1101 *et seq.*); **or**
- (3) a conflict of interest or representation involving a business colleague as prohibited by the City Ethics Code (Philadelphia Code §§ 20-602(5), 20-607, 20-608(c))

shall take the following actions as soon as possible and before Land Bank action occurs to make public the nature and extent of the financial interest, contract interest, or business relationship at issue:

- (a) Prepare a letter that:
  - 1) includes the Member's name and position;
  - 2) identifies the relevant matter on which the Land Bank is taking action (such as specific property being considered for transfer);
  - 3) describes the circumstances (including relevant relationships and financial interests) giving rise to the Conflict Issue;

- 4) describes the relevant duties that that would normally require the Member or the Land Bank to take official action;
  - 5) includes a statement that the Member disqualifies himself/herself from official action related to the Conflict Issue, including participating in preliminary discussions and review as well as final votes and decisions.
- (b) Cause one (1) copy of such letter to be delivered by certified mail to each of the following: the Chair of the Land Bank; the Executive Director of the Land Bank; the General Counsel of the Board of Ethics; and the Commissioner of the Department of Records.
- (c) Abstain from taking official action and remove himself/herself from the opportunity to influence in any manner the Land Bank's actions related to the Conflict Issue. This includes leaving the room while the Land Bank Board considers the matter.

The Chair of the Land Bank shall cause such letters to be read at the first public meeting after the disclosure letter has been sent and also to be attached to the meeting minutes. At subsequent meetings on which action is taken relating to the Member's Conflict Issue, the Chair shall note the Member's disclosed Conflict Issue and disqualification from related official action. The Chair shall exclude the Member from any participation, including votes, deliberations, and other official action related to the Member's Conflict Issue. When the Chair of the Land Bank is the individual filing a disclosure and disqualification letter, another officer of the Land Bank shall carry out the duties described for the Chair in this Paragraph.

The agenda for Land Bank meetings is set 10 days before the Board meeting. Upon receipt of a copy of the agenda, Members should review it for potential Conflict Issues, and if they discover any, should immediately follow this public disclosure and disqualification procedure.

In the event that a Member becomes aware of a conflict just before the Board meeting, that Member shall publicly announce his/her financial interest in the matter, state that he/she will not participate in the matter, leave the room during consideration of the matter and file the required letters within 5 days after the Board meeting.

Any Member who is unsure whether he or she has a Conflict Issue or who has questions about this procedure should contact the Land Bank's General Counsel.