

# Barbers' Board Meeting

**Monday, December 9, 2024**

A meeting of the State Board of Barbers was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference.

## Board Member Attendees

Mr. Larry Franklin - *Chairperson Absent*

Mr. Andrew Campbell - *Industry Member*

Mr. Wade Menendez - *Industry Member*

Ms. Toni Wallace - *Industry Member*

Mr. Channing Trent- *Industry Member*

Ms. Lanine Swann, *Consumer Member*

Ms. Yasmine Young- *Consumer Member*

## Other Staff Attendees

Ms. Nicole Fletcher- *Executive Director*

Ms. Breona Scott- *Assistant Executive Director*

Ms. Leslie Braxton- *Licensing Supervisor*

Mr. Jacob Guy- *Board Administrator*

Ms. Fatmata Rahman- *Administrative Specialist III*

Ms. Ashley Thompson- *Office Secretary*

Mr. Kenneth Sigman- *Advice Counsel*

Ms. Renee Robertson- *Continuing Education Coordinator*

Ms. Karina Papavasiliou- *Inspector*

*Full Time Inspector- Vacant*

# **Agenda**

## **Quorum Announced, and Meeting Called to Order**

A quorum was announced by Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher and the meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Before approval of the agenda, Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher announced an amendment to the December 9, 2024 agenda. Item A. Curriculum Approval was struck from New Business, as there were no approved curricula to discuss. Executive Director, Ms. Nicole Fletcher then requested a motion for approval of the amended agenda. Mr. Andrew Campbell made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Toni Wallace, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

## **Approval of October 21, 2024 Minutes**

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher then asked for a motion to approve the October 21, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Wade Menendez to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Andrew Campbell and the motion unanimously passed.

# **New Business**

## **A. BOARD OBJECTIVES**

Ms. Toni Wallace opened the topic by stating her desire for the Board to be more present in the community, and clearly outline objectives to create transparency and raise the standard of professionalism within the industry. Mr. Channing Trent also shared thoughts, stating the importance of the Board actively addressing concerns and being there for consumers and industry members. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher agreed with thoughts offered by both Ms. Wallace and Mr. Trent, and went on to say that creating a social media presence has previously been discussed as a way to more effectively communicate with the public, and could be something that she will propose to the Secretary's Office again in the future. Ms. Wallace chimed in again reminding everyone that there are organizations already in existence that have established followings and may be willing to work with the Board to help get our message out. Advice Counsel Mr. Kenneth Sigman jumped in to say that social media posts from outside accounts needed to be clear that they are not affiliated with, or speaking on behalf of the Board.

With concerns raised about control over public comment and information not reaching people, Mr. Channing Trent suggested hosting an in person forum, where industry professionals could attend and learn about laws that are in place, and receive updates that they may have not previously been aware of. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher agreed and cited the effectiveness of in person meetings that have been held in the past. It was agreed upon that hosting such an event in the Baltimore area would be optimal for licensees throughout the state and would help maximize attendance. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher said that she would work to finalize details and would be in touch with everyone. There was consensus among Board members that some combination of hosting in person meetings and establishing a social media presence would be an effective way to communicate with the public.

Mr. Andrew Campbell and Ms. Toni Wallace then shifted the conversation by discussing a shared idea for the Board to post violations, fines, and complaints somewhere for the public to see. This would create transparency and allow the public to know that the Board is on top of things and doing everything in our power to achieve the ultimate goal of promoting compliance from all barbers and barbershops throughout the state. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that this information was previously shared online and is something that the Board could pick back up on updating.

## **B. NEW CONSUMER MEMBER YASMINE YOUNG**

Newly appointed Consumer Member Ms. Yasmine Young was in attendance for her first meeting and introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Young is a licensed cosmetologist and salon owner, and has been in the industry for fifteen years. Ms. Young stated she is excited to learn more about the barber industry while contributing insights from her background in cosmetology and specifically her experience in working with natural and curly hair. Ms. Young's ultimate desire is to aid the Board in elevating the standard of care, innovation, and professionalism within the field.

# Old Business

## A. INSPECTION SUMMARY

Licensing Supervisor Ms. Leslie Braxton provided an Inspection Summary for today’s meeting. The Data was collected from October 18, 2024 - December 5, 2024.

<b>6</b>	<b>New shop applications received</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>New shops pending inspections - to be assigned</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Complaints received</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Complaints - open / to be assigned</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Complaints - inspections completed</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Inspections conducted</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Inspections passed</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Inspections failed</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Failed - new shop inspections</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Failed - late renewal inspections</b>

## Public Comment

No public comment for December 9, 2024 meeting.

# Adjournment

Executive Director Nicole Fletcher requested a motion to call the meeting to adjournment at 10:54 A.M. Mr. Andrew Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Channing Trent and the motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ on February 10, 2024.