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For Immediate Release

Birmingham Board of Ethics has been Requested to Review Anti-Defamation League Allegations

BIRMINGHAM, MI, November 10, 2021 – The City of Birmingham’s Board of Ethics has been requested to review allegations received by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) stating that City Commissioner Clinton Baller used language that the ADL believes may have risen to the level of antisemitism.

The City of Birmingham takes allegations of racial or ethnic incidents very seriously, and implemented a plan for response to such incidents in 1992. The goal of the *Plan for the City of Birmingham’s Response to Incidents Involving Racial or Ethnic Conflict* is to respond legally, promptly, sensitively and effectively to any incident which may involve racial or ethnic conflict. In adhering to the plan, Birmingham City Manager Tom Markus has requested the Board of Ethics to determine whether an incident of racial or ethnic conflict occurred.

“The City has consistently condemned any and all forms of discrimination. The Board of Ethics has been requested to conduct a review of this incident,” said Birmingham City Manager Tom Markus.

The City’s Ethics Ordinance has established rules of conduct for City officials, employees, and advisors and has designed a process for determining whether their conduct conforms to or violates the ordinance. When there is a question or a complaint as to the applicability of any provision of the Ethics Ordinance to a particular situation, the City directs that question or complaint to the Board of Ethics. Learn more about the Board of Ethics and view the Ethics Ordinance at www.bhamgov.org/ethics.

Clearly, a political conflict occurred. The question is whether any incident of racial or ethnic conflict occurred. Should the Board of Ethics accept the request of the City Manager, the board will review the submitted documents to determine whether there are sufficient allegations of complaint to warrant the Board of Ethics to conduct hearings and/or issue an advisory opinion as to whether an incident of racial or ethnic conflict occurred.

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