

September 8, 2026

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Thomas V. McCarron, Principal
Ste. 1900
250 W. Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Re: Commission Request for Justification of Artspiration Complaint (August 28th)

Dear Mr. McCarron:

This response is intentionally brief and direct. The Commission has the duty to investigate - not the Complainant. The Commission has demonstrated that it can, when willing, initiate a lengthy City-funded investigation. Records obtained are published in a public folder and provided.

I. Commission Request for a Change of Timeline

The “Commission desires to restrict responses to the time frame July 22, 2025 to present”. All records requests were made in 2026; this is when I was made aware of the alleged violations.

II. Identify the Person/Persons Who Has/Had Financial Gain

The Mayor and his wife used/attempted to use public resources to gain financially.

III. Identify Contributions

The Ethics Commission should initiate the investigation upon learning of the Mayor’s wife’s multiple solicitation of donations from multiple members of City staff for Artspiration.

IV. Multiple City Departments

A cursory investigation proved that Planning, Economic Development, the Weinberg, Arts and Culture, and the Mayor’s Office supported the financial outcomes of Artspiration. The Commission should investigate how far the abuse of public resources stretched: how long, who, if coercion was present, etc. The Commission must calculate staff pay rate and hours given to define the corruption.

IV. Land Use Queries

There is no disclosure on the Mayor’s Financial Disclosure of sizable gifts. The Commission should be interested to ensure that Artpiration is paying market rate for their lease and there are no additional land use deals in front of City officials (including the Planning Commission given that the Mayor appointed the other co-owner of Artspiration, Natasha Valencia). A tax record search provided a list of more than 14 tax equities for the same Artspiration landlord. A simple inquiry into these entities for business and financial transactions before the City is obviously required.

Sincerely,

Katherine (Katie) Nash

cc: Rachel Gray, City Attorney