

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, February 14, 2023

Conducted via Zoom call

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Bruce Romer, Chair

Jennifer Collins, Vice-Chair

Susan Beard

Rahul Goel

Mary Ann Keeffe

Staff Members: Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

The public portion of the meeting was recorded, and the recording can be found on the Commission's website. (The first few minutes of the meeting were not recorded due to error.)

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair.

Item 2. A motion was made to follow the original posted agenda to the meeting instead of a revised agenda that altered the order of items to be considered. The motion also sought to move "Obtain legal counsel regarding meetings and issues raised about what should be included in Annual Report" from the revised closed meeting agenda to the open portion of the meeting. There being no second to the motion, the motion was not voted on.

Item 3. The Commission approved the minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting after a revision.

Item 4. Ethics Education: Mr. Cobb indicated that there were no new developments in ethics education; he reported there had been 3 one-hour training sessions since the January meeting, including two new employee training sessions with a total of 100 new employees in attendance. There are four scheduled trainings before the next scheduled Commission meeting, including two training sessions for employees of the Housing Opportunities Commission.

Item 5. Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 7:20 p.m. the Commission voted 4 to 1 to close the meeting to the public to discuss legal advice and confidential matters.

- a. The Commission decided to issue two waivers.
- b. The Commission considered allegations of violations of the public ethics law with respect to two matters. The Commission provided direction to staff on the appropriate resolution of the matters.
- c. The Commission approved the outside employment requests as presented, with one request being denied and an additional condition being added to one request.
- d. The Commission received legal advice from counsel regarding meeting procedures and legal issues associated with requested inclusion of certain information in the Annual Report.

The meeting reopened at 8:35.

Item 6. Meeting Procedures. The Commission directed staff to prepare a memorandum outlining a proposed meeting format.

Item 7. Annual Report. The Commission approved the draft of the Annual Report, with revisions.

Item 8. New Business: The Commissioners discussed whether Commission meetings should be in person and if so whether Commissioners or the public would be able to participate remotely in a hybrid meeting and whether or how this might affect the recordation of meetings. The Commission directed staff to address the issues and report back to the Commission.

Item 9. The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Cobb

Chief Counsel