



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of March 12, 2013

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Stuart Rick, Chair
Kenita Barrow
Rachel Brown
Mark L. Greenblatt
Nina Weisbroth

Staff Member:

Robert Cobb, Chief Counsel
Erin Chu, Program Specialist II

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Item 2. Erin Chu, the new Program Specialist II, was introduced to the Commission.

Item 3. The minutes from the 2/12/13 meeting were approved as presented.

Item 4. The minutes from the 2/26/13 special meeting on financial disclosure were discussed. Several edits were requested: that three tiers of level of disclosure were intended, not just two (elected officials, senior employees, and limited disclosure filers;) that limited disclosure filers were to disclose to the "best of their knowledge"; and to make clear that since there is no *de minimus* for conflicts of interest, any ownership can trigger a conflict. The Commission wants to make sure that the top two tiers of filers certify as to what connectivity there is between their disclosures and their official positions, in the same way limited disclosure filers are to certify as to their conflicts of interest. Changes were suggested and Cobb was to document the major points agreed upon for a new financial disclosure framework in a one page summary.

Montgomery County Ethics Commission

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Item 5. Cobb reviewed the County Executive's proposed FY '14 budget for the Ethics Commission.

Item 6. The Commission discussed whether to extend the deadline for financial disclosure beyond April 15th. Cobb indicated that the list for launch of annual financial disclosure was likely to be ready by Friday March 15. The Commission decided that no extension was warranted unless the launch date slipped beyond Friday April 15. If this occurred an extension was authorized to extend 30 days from the date of the launch, e.g. if launch was March 20, filers would have until April 19 to file.

Item 7. The Commission reviewed a draft memorandum to Department Directors/HR Liaisons about collecting financial disclosures from filers who have failed to file. Cobb will edit the memorandum and recirculate it as requested by the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel