



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of May 14, 2013

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

Staff Member:

Robert Cobb, Chief Counsel

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The minutes from the 4/09/13 meeting were approved as presented.

Item 3. Cobb gave a report on the budget work session with the Government Operations Committee. He reported that things went well, the Council was very supportive, and that there were no bumps whatever as regards the budget proposal for FY'14. Mr. Rick, who had attended the session affirmed that it went well.

Item 4. Cobb reported on the status of the 2012 annual financial disclosure cycle and distributed a memorandum from Erin Chu on that subject. The Commission noted its satisfaction with the positive results reported. Cobb outlined the enforcement protocol for the one filer that appeared intransigent to filing requirements. In addition, with respect to those in a "returned" status, the Commission agreed with the staff recommendation to give 7 days for those who have had reports returned to them to complete the form (as has been the practice for years.) In addition, the Commission agreed that before enforcement should begin with respect to those in a returned status who do not file after 7 days, 23 additional days should pass before the Commission staff institutes enforcement.

Item 5. The Commission reconsidered the matter of how long to retain public financial disclosure reports. The Commission had previously concluded that for public reports, the reports

Montgomery County Ethics Commission

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should be maintained for six years to be consistent with the disposition of confidential reports, which, pursuant to the Public Ethics Law, have to be destroyed after six years. The Commission affirmed their prior decision to keep the retention period for public reports to 6 years. The Commission discussed that when revisions to the financial disclosure portions of the public ethics law are drafted, it may be that retention should be made consistent with state retention periods for financial disclosure reports.

Item 6. The Commission reviewed the amended minutes from the 2/26/2013 meeting. The Commission approved these minutes subject to a few minor edits. The Commission discussed next steps, including having Commission staff begin working on drafting a revised law and in communicating the Commission's main points to interested parties.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Cobb".

Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel