MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of September 11, 2012

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:	Nina Weisbroth, Chair Stuart Rick, Vice Chair Kenita Barrow Rachel Brown
Invited Guest:	Fariba Kassiri
Staff Members:	Robert Cobb, Chief Counsel

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item 2. The Minutes from the August 14, 2012, were approved with minor edits.

Item 3. At the Commission's invitation, Fariba Kassiri described the steps taken to address the Inspector General's report on ethics activities and making improvements to financial disclosure processes. Her description was delivered in the context of Tim Firestine's memorandum of August 20 outlining new internal processes and with reference to a partnership between the Ethics Commission and the CAO's office to conduct an assessment of the entire financial disclosure process. The CAO is pursuing a short-term approach reflected in the August 20 memo, a mid-term approach which revolves around a process mapping undertaking by DTS, and a commitment to long term solutions once the variables associated with systems mapping and consideration of alternatives in approaching process, such as the process for designation of filers, have been more fully considered.

Ms. Kassiri indicated that the CAO had directed DTS to provide HR liaisons with direct access to the FDS compliance reports. This resolved an issue identified in the EC staff's memorandum of September 4 responding to the August 20 memorandum.

Some discussion occurred relating to the benefits of providing guidance to HR liaisons and to reviewers as regards content of financial disclosure reports.

Item 4. Robert Cobb reported that the memorandum conveying the EC's response to Councilmember Navarro's inquiry regarding lobbying was sent on September 5. Cobb also mentioned that a waiver was issued in connection with a request for outside employment by a library employee to work at the Friends of the Montgomery County Library. Cobb discussed the status of the effort to fill the Program Manager position, and the status of the effort to abolish the Program Specialist I and create a Program Specialist II position.

Item 5. The Commission reviewed the draft response to the Committee Evaluation and Review Board Questionnaire, and approved the draft with minor edits.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W Cobb

Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel