

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, October 11, 2022

Conducted via Zoom call

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Bruce Romer, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Collins

Rahul Goel

Mary Ann Keeffe

Staff Members: Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

Member of the Public:

Alfred Carr

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

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the September 13, 2022, meeting as presented.

Item 3. Ethics Education: Mr. Cobb informed the Commission of training developments. He indicated that the BCC training module is almost ready for deployment. The video captioning and delivery platform have been built and are being tested. Coordination with the County Executive's Board Committee and Commission staff is required for roll-out of the new training product. Mr. Cobb also indicated that progress is being made towards implementation of new employee one hour ethics training. The platform for notice to new employees and delivery of

training will be tested in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Cobb indicated that he was likely to discontinue looking for an intern for development of educational materials.

Item 4. The Commission discussed changing its process for allowing access to its monthly meetings on Zoom. The Commission decided by vote of 3-1 to change its process to allow members of the public access to meetings without first contacting Commission staff. Further, the Commission decided by vote of 4-0 to institute recordation of the public portion of Commission's Zoom meetings, with the recorded portion of the meeting to be made available on the Commission's website.

Item 5. Ethics bill status: Mr. Cobb reported that Bill 17-22 will be considered at a work session of the Government Operations Committee on October 20. Certain other issues, previously raised with the Council by Commission staff, would also be addressed at the Go Committee work session.

Item 6. New Business: The Commissioners identified no new business matters.

Item 7. Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 8:45 p.m. the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to the public to discuss legal advice and confidential matters.

- a. The Commission decided to issue an advisory opinion.
- b. The Commission discussed allegations of a violation of the ethics law and concluded that an investigation was necessary to resolve the matter.
- c. The Commission approved the outside employment requests as presented.

The meeting reopened at 9:30.

Item 8. The meeting adjourned at 9:36.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Cobb

Chief Counsel