

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, August 9, 2022

Conducted via Zoom call

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Susan Beard, Chair

Bruce Romer, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Collins

Rahul Goel

Mary Ann Keeffe

Staff Members: Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the July 12, 2022, meeting with a minor edit.

Item 3. Ethics Education: Mr. Cobb informed the Commission on the progress with implementation of the Board Committee and Commission (BCC) training. In particular, Technology and Business Solutions (TEBS) staff is currently working on making the BCC ethics training videos accessible in accordance with relevant requirements. In August, TEBS intends to have a programmer work on building the videos into a system to provide notice and tracking of the BCC ethics training videos.

Mr. Cobb discussed the idea of seeking an individual to provide assistance in the development of relevant ethics training materials pursuant to a personal services contract. Mr. Cobb indicated that he thought reaching out to local law schools would hopefully result in obtaining a person with the requisite technology skills. The Commission encouraged the idea of seeking paid assistance, although acknowledging that there can be challenges in obtaining full benefit of assistance due to technological challenges. The Commission thought it would be a good idea

to seek additional funds for the Commission's FY'24 budget for purposes of obtaining a part-time employee to provide training related services.

Item 4. Ethics bill status: Mr. Cobb updated the Commission on the status of the ethics bill, the public hearing of which occurred on July 26, 2022, with brief testimony being provided by Mr. Cobb. The bill has been referred to the Government Operations Committee for further action.

Item 5. Finance Policy Involving Ethics Commission Staff. Mr. Cobb updated the Commission on changes that were made to the Finance Policy concerning registration of employees on the County's vendor registration system. Mr. Cobb indicated that after a substantial amount of communication on the policy, the policy had been revised to accurately reflect the role of Commission staff

Item 6. New Business: A motion was made for the Commission to require the executive director to report at each Commission meeting on staff and program activity not already addressed at Commission meetings. After discussion, the motion was tabled.

Item 7: Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 8:15 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 decided to waive the levy of a fine.
- a. The Commission approved the outside employment requests as presented.

The meeting reopened at 9:15.

Item 8. The meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Cobb

Chief Counsel

