

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, September 13, 2022

Conducted via Zoom call

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Susan Beard, Chair

Bruce Romer, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Collins

Staff Members: Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

Members of the Public:

Alfred Carr

David Rosensweig

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

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the August 9, 2022, as presented.

Item 3. A member of the public, Mr. Carr, stated that he believes the Commission meetings should be streamed on YouTube and was dismayed that Commission staff did not provide electronic consent for him to record the meeting on the Zoom platform. Mr. Carr also mentioned that the Commission had not responded to his opinion in Bethesda Beat referencing the streaming issue. Mr. Cobb indicated that staff would look into these issues and present the matters for consideration to the Ethics Commission at the next meeting.

Item 4. Ethics Education: Mr. Cobb informed the Commission of training developments. He indicated that an advertisement for a paid internship had been prepared and distributed to area law schools and reported that to date no applications had been received. Mr. Cobb updated the Commission on the BCC training module system development by saying he had

been informed by the developers that the module was 60% complete. With respect to the new employee orientation module, Mr. Cobb informed the Commission that he had been told that development was 60% complete, with system testing aiming for the end of September. Mr. Cobb reported that he had conducted one hour training for both Police and Fire and Rescue Service recruits at in-person training sessions held at the Public Safety Academy. These training sessions are to occur with all new recruit classes going forward. Mr. Cobb reported that two training sessions with the Housing and Opportunity Commission were set up for later in September.

Item 5. Ethics bill status: Mr. Cobb reported that bill 17-22 has been referred to the Government Operations Committee for further action. He reported that the Bill would be probably set for review by that Committee in the beginning of October.

Item 6. State Certification: Mr. Cobb explained to the Commission the annual process for certification to the State of the County's compliance with State requirements. Mr. Cobb indicated that due to the changes in the State ethics law, that the County will be in compliance with State requirements only after enacting the new provisions in Bill 17-22. No objection was made to Mr. Cobb's proposed handling of the certification process.

Item 7. New Business: The Commissioners identified no new business matters.

Item 8. Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 7:22 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 grant two waivers.
- b. The Commission discussed a matter from a prior meeting.
- c. The Commission approved the outside employment requests as presented.

The meeting reopened at 8:20.

Item 9. The meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Cobb

Chief Counsel