

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND
Thursday, January 12, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.
5th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building**

Committee Members Present:

David Scull, Chair
Sharon Cohen, Vice Chair
Lee Annis, Jr.
Margaret Greene
Paul Schwartz

Staff:

Amanda Mihill, County Council

Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. David Crow, Fiscal Projects Manager at the Montgomery County Department of Finance, also attended the meeting to address the Committee's implementation questions.

Mr. Scull noted summarized the Committee's discussions from the last few meetings and noted his view that the Public Election Fund should have enough funding to compensate for errors and limit potential legislative mischief. Mr. Scull noted that Jared DeMarinis, Director of Candidacy and Campaign Finance at the State Board of Elections was available by phone to talk to the Committee. Mr. Scull noted his intention to focus on the logistics of the implementation of the Program rather than funding at this juncture. Ms. Mihill noted the Committee's statutory duty to recommend an appropriation for the following fiscal year. Mr. Scull noted that the Council had received the Committee's views in the report that the Committee submitted in January 2016.

The Committee met with Mr. DeMarinis by telephone to discuss implementation of the Public Election Fund. Included in the discussion were the following topics:

- What are appropriate penalties for violations of the law? For instance, is it appropriate for a candidate to be punished if an out-of-County contributor falsely claimed that they were a County resident, thereby resulting in an inappropriate County funding match?
- What are the enforcement mechanisms for violations of the law?
- What are the reporting requirements for candidates?
- What trainings will be offered for candidates seeking to participate in the program?
- Is additional staffing required to implement the program?

The Committee also heard briefly from Mr. Damon Effingham, Policy and Legal Director for Common Cause Maryland. Mr. Effingham noted that Common Cause is recommending that a

total of \$10 million to \$11 million be allocated for the program and suggested that allocating to \$15 million would result in a very robust program.

Committee members confirmed their next meeting will be on February 8 at 7:00 p.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

* Subsequently, the Committee agreed to move their meeting date to February 13 at 7:30.

F:\Mihill\Public Election Fund\2015-2019 Committee\Minutes\2017 January 12 minutes.doc