

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, December 13, 2023

In-person only meeting, Council Office Building Room 114

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Susan Beard

Kenita Barrow

Frederic Gallun

Rahul Goel

Elizabeth Kellar

Staff Members:

Robert Cobb, Staff Director/Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

Item 1. Susan Beard was selected to act as Acting Chair for the December and January meetings, pending a vote for 2024 officers planned for the January 10, 2024, meeting.

Item 2. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by the Acting Chair.

Item 3. Elizabeth Kellar and Frederic Gallun were welcomed to the Commission.

Item 3. The Commission members present at the October 10, 2023, meeting approved the minutes as presented.

Item 4. Ethics Education: Mr. Cobb updated the Commission on training activities since the October meeting. In particular, Mr. Cobb discussed the roll-out of the training video for new employees who do not take the live on-line ethics training after receiving notices and twice being automatically enrolled to take the live training.

Item 5. Erin Chu discussed the launch of the 2024 lobbying registration letter and the preparations for the launch of the annual financial disclosure notices for January 2, 2024.

Item 6. There was no new business. The next meeting is January 10, to be held as a virtual Zoom meeting.

The open meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm to conduct administrative matters.

In the administrative meeting, the Commission decided to issue two waivers. The Commission reviewed several instances of informal advice that had been provided to persons with questions by Mr. Cobb. The Commission advised Mr. Cobb on how to address two instances of draft informal advice.

The Commission also approved outside employment as recommended, adding a condition to one request. Susan Beard was recused from one outside employment request.

The administrative meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Cobb

Staff Director/Chief Counsel