



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, January 14, 2025

Hybrid meeting in person and via Zoom

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Elizabeth Kellar, Chair

Rahul Goel, Vice-Chair

Kenita Barrow

Eric Gallun

Staff Members:

Erin O'Connor, Staff Director/Chief Counsel

Hiwote Yohannes, Program Manager

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by the Chair.

Item 2. Ms. O'Connor gave the Commission an update on the annual financial disclosure filing season launch and status of filings, as well as an update on lobbying registration statistics for CY25. There was a discussion about Ms. O'Connor reaching out to staff liaisons financial disclosure filing boards, committees and commissions who may benefit from filing assistance for members. Ms. O'Connor will email liaisons and coordinate providing such assistance at future public meetings of the specified boards, committees and commissions.

Item 3. Ms. O'Connor discussed the various ethics trainings she is providing to groups, both in person and virtually, in the month of January. She also notified the Commission of her intent to have Ms. Yohannes begin providing some ethics trainings as well.

Item 4. Ms. O'Connor briefly mentioned that she and Ms. Yohannes attended a train-the-trainer session with the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice with the intent of both Ethics staffers participating in future RESJ trainings as facilitators. The Commission reacted favorably to this information.

The open meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm to conduct administrative matters.

In the administrative meeting, the Commission approved all outside employment requests as presented.

Ms O'Connor updated the Commission on two ongoing matters.

The Commission discussed one request for informal advice.

The administrative meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin O'Connor  
Staff Director/Chief Counsel