



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, February 11, 2025

Virtual meeting held via Zoom

Minutes

### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Commissioners:

Elizabeth Kellar, Chair  
Rahul Goel, Vice-Chair  
Kenita Barrow  
Susan Beard  
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. The January 2025 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Item 3. Ms. O'Connor gave the Commission an update on the annual financial disclosure filing season status of filings, as well as an update on lobbying activity reporting statistics for second half CY24. Ms. O'Connor also provided the Commission with a brief update on lobbying registrations for CY25.

Item 4. Ms. O'Connor notified the Commission of the welcome addition of Ms. Yohannes providing virtual ethics training in the month of February. She also updated the Commission on the outcome of various in-person trainings Ms. O'Connor provided to County Councilmembers

and Fire and Rescue recruits. She also notified the Commission of her attendance at the most recent Human Rights Commission meeting, and her intent to attend their in-person retreat at the end of February with the goal of assisting any HRC members who would like help filing their financial disclosures.

Item 5. The Commission discussed the CY24 Annual Report and agreed to its publication at the end of February, in keeping with the statutory mandate of publication by March 1 of each calendar year.

Item 6. Ms. O'Connor discussed her meeting with the County Executive regarding the Ethics Commission's FY26 budget request. Ms. O'Connor notified the Commission of the difficult fiscal year ahead for the County. The Commission asked Ms. O'Connor to consult with TEBS regarding the annual maintenance fee amount in the Commission's request, as the figure was put forth by TEBS. Ms. O'Connor will reach out to the stakeholders at TEBS to ask further details about the amount being asked and how TEBS arrived at the suggested annual maintenance request. Ms. O'Connor will report back to the Ethics Commission at its March meeting. The Commission also discussed the correlation between lobbying program maintenance and fees charged for lobbying registration. Ms. O'Connor will provide the language from the Public Ethics Law to the Commission with regard to formulating lobbying registration fees.

The open meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm to conduct administrative matters.

In the administrative meeting, the Commission approved all but one of the outside employment requests as presented. Ms. O'Connor will gather further information on the one withheld outside employment request and report back to the Commission.

Ms O'Connor updated the Commission on one new matter.

The Commission discussed the outcome of one request for informal advice.

The administrative meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin O'Connor  
Staff Director/Chief Counsel