

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, March 14, 2023

Conducted via Zoom call

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Bruce Romer, Chair

Jennifer Collins, Vice-Chair

Susan Beard

Rahul Goel

Mary Ann Keeffe

Staff Members: Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

The public portion of the meeting was recorded, and the recording can be found on the Commission's website.

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair.

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the February 14, 2023, meeting.

Item 3. Ethics Education: Mr. Cobb indicated that there were no new developments in ethics education; he reported there are multiple scheduled trainings for financial disclosure filers as the second three-year cycle since the program was first instituted in 2017 has come about. While there is some dispersion in terms of the target audience, there is expected to be approximately 1000 employees who will receive training pursuant to the requirement.

Item 4. The Commission considered how it was going to conduct meetings going forward. It adopted a recommendation from staff to adjourn its open meetings to conduct administrative functions, with reporting to open meeting minutes conforming to requirements of Maryland law at GP Art. 3-104. The Commission also decided that it would return to in-person meetings

beginning with the April 11 meeting, with staff to address any logistical issues. In the context of returning to in-person meetings, the Commission, in light of and deference to policy direction received from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer that BCCs should not record their meetings unless absolutely necessary, decided by 4 to 1 vote that it would no longer be recording its meetings. The Commission was cognizant that the County had not finalized its policies regarding the topic of recordation of meetings and that the issue could be revisited when the policies are finalized.

Item 5. There was no New Business.

Item 6. Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 7:41 p.m. the Commission voted to close the meeting to the public to discuss legal advice and confidential matters.

- a. The Commission decided to issue a waiver.
- b. The Commission approved the outside employment requests as presented.

The meeting reopened at 8:16.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Cobb

Chief Counsel