



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of April 3, 2019

### Minutes

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

##### Commissioners:

Rahul Goel, Chair  
Steven Rosen, Vice-Chair  
Kenita Barrow  
Susan Beard  
Bruce Romer

##### Staff Members:

Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel  
Erin Chu, Program Manager

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the February 27, 2019, meeting as presented.

Item 3. The Commission discussed the departure of Kelly Uhas and staffing needs going forward. Mr. Cobb stated that because of the technological improvements in running Commission programs, the need for data entry responsibilities had decreased. The concern regarding operations is in depth/back-up, maintenance of the organization and administration, and continuity. Mr. Cobb is to brief the Commission on the status of office operations at the next meeting in the context of staffing planning.

Item 4. Mr. Cobb updated the Commission on the status of the annual filings and expectations going forward.

Item 5. Mr. Cobb updated the Commission on the unwillingness of the Fraternal Order of Police to abide the ethics law and the ethics regulations regarding compliance with procedures regarding approval for outside employment. Mr. Cobb will keep the Commission advised of developments, especially in light of the unnecessary burden on Commission staff to manually input data that a system has been already built to receive automatically.

Item 6. The Commission discussed training ideas and what could be made available as training options for those not covered by mandatory training for executive branch financial disclosure filers. The Commission discussed the possibility of establishing a statutory basis for requiring basic ethics training. The merits of in-person training versus on-line training were discussed. Some of the ideas were to create content before proceeding to the seeking of a mandatory requirement. Mr. Cobb is going to examine the options further and work towards the development of content.

Item 7. Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 7:40 p.m. the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to the public to discuss legal advice and confidential matters.

- a. The Commission considered a request for an advisory opinion regarding the provision of references relating to a contractor's work, and the Commission decided to issue an advisory opinion.
- b. The Commission considered four separate requests for waivers of the prohibition of 19A-12(b)(1)(B) and decided to issue waivers in each case.
- c. The Commission considered the outside employment requests for police and for other County employees, and approved the requests subject to conditions where recommended by staff. In one instance the request for outside employment was placed on hold pending development of additional information.

The meeting reopened at 8:05.

Item 18. The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2019 and the June meeting was scheduled for June 12.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Cobb  
Chief Counsel