



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, August 5, 2025

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Elizabeth Kellar, Chair
Rahul Goel, Vice-Chair
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 7:00 pm by the Chair.

Item 2. The June 2025 meeting minutes were approved with one correction.

Item 3. Ms. O'Connor gave the Commission an update on the semi-annual lobbying activity report deadline that occurred on July 31. She and Ms. Yohannes also discussed upcoming in-person training dates and an effort to coordinate training dates for external personnel at various quasi-governmental organizations. The Commission asked Ms. O'Connor to gather statistics for how many individuals the staff is training per month and provide that information at the September meeting. Ms. O'Connor was also instructed to include those statistics in the Annual Reports moving forward.

Item 4. Ms. O'Connor informed the Commission of a new contract attorney at the Police Accountability Board Administrative Charging Committee.

Item 5. Ms. O'Connor discussed new language for enabling legislation of new boards, committees and commissions that the County Executive's BCC office is contemplating. The new language would more clearly announce when a specific role on a County board, committee or commission is being created so that the person in that role will be there to represent the viewpoint of a specific constituency. The Ethics Commission will think about the language and discuss the matter at their September meeting.

The open meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm to conduct administrative matters.

In the administrative meeting, the Commission approved most of the outside employment requests as presented. The Commission had follow-up questions for two requests and added a condition to a third request.

The Commission reviewed and acted on two routine waivers.

The Commission dismissed one complaint.

The Commission discussed two new matters, both of which will be discussed further at the September meeting.

The administrative meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin O'Connor
Staff Director/Chief Counsel