



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of September 5, 2018

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:	Steve Rosen, Chair Kenita Barrow, Vice-Chair Susan Beard Rahul Goel Bruce Romer
Staff Members:	Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel Kelly Uhas, Program Specialist

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the July 25, 2018, meeting as presented.

Item 3. Robert Cobb sought guidance from the Commission concerning responses and reactions to the notification of persons who may be engaged in activities for which lobbying registration may be required but who have nonetheless not registered. The Commission discussed the possible sending of survey questions to those who are likely to be required to register and the possible outcomes resulting from sending such surveys. The Commission determined that for the time being, Cobb should examine whether there are tactical approaches to encourage registration that can be implemented, including coordination with the County Council on process changes associated with visitors to County Council members. The Commission was interested in various statistics relating to lobbying registrations and activity, some of which were readily available and some of which are not. From readily available information, it was demonstrated that the number of visits to the County Council declined in 2018 from 2017.

Item 4. The Commission considered a draft letter prepared by Mr. Cobb to the State Ethics Commission concerning changes to the County's ethics law. The Commission suggested changes to the letter.

Item 5. Mr. Cobb provided an update to the Commission concerning training activities. He indicated that the mandatory training to financial disclosure filers would be conducted every other month and that information relating to the approved ethics regulations would be incorporated into the training. In particular, the training would focus on those parts of the regulations pertaining to gifts and misuse of the prestige of office.

Item 6. Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 8:10 p.m. the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to the public to discuss legal advice and confidential matters.

- a. The Commission considered two waiver requests and decided to grant the waivers.
- b. The Commission examined a matter involving possible failure to comply with lobbying requirements.
- c. The Commission received a status report from Mr. Cobb concerning a pending legal matter.
- d. The Commission considered whether to withdraw an outside employment approval. The Commission decided to withdraw the approval.
- e. The Commission considered requests for outside employment and approved the requests. As to Police Outside employment, the Commission considered whether, in the context of the Commission's and Executive Regulations concerning outside employment, the Commission's three-year limit for its approvals should be implemented. The Commission decided that it should, but Mr. Cobb is to examine whether there are any administrative barriers to implementation of this requirement.

The meeting reopened at 9:15.

Item 7. The Commission set its next two meeting dates for October 24 and November 28, 2018.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel



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