



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, February 8, 2022
Conducted via Zoom call
Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Susan Beard, Chair

Bruce Romer, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Collins

Rahul Goel

Mary Ann Keeffe

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Dalia Mustafa

Staff Members:

Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel

Erin Chu, Program Manager

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

Item 2. The Commission approved the minutes from the January 11, 2022, as presented.

Item 3. Employee Ethics Education - As agreed to at the Commission's January 11, 2022, meeting to have a standing report on Employee training, Mr. Cobb briefed the Commission on recent developments. Items discussed included: developing a new employee acknowledgement plan; creating a short video for an annual employee Ethics update; and strengthening post-employment/exit training. A commissioner inquired as to the availability of data concerning numbers of persons trained when the program is implemented. Mr. Cobb thought that data would likely be available.

Item 4. State Lobbying Legislative Developments - Mr. Cobb briefed the Commission concerning an amendment to Delegate Carr's bill (House Bill 59) to change the State Ethics Law to address lobbying law inconsistencies among Maryland's Counties and Municipalities. After

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

100 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

OFFICE: 240.777.6670 FAX: 240.777.6672

discussion the Commission unanimously determined that it would continue to follow the track of the bill through the legislative process but not take a position on the proposed law at this time.

Item 5. 2021 Annual Report - The Commission approved the annual report for calendar year 2021, complementing Mr. Cobb on its thoroughness and readability. The report can be found on the Commission website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Ethics/Resources/Files/pdfs/Annual%20Report%202021.pdf>.

Item 6. New Business – There were no new business items.

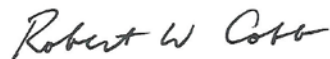
Item 7. Closed Portion Agenda - Pursuant to GP Art. 3-305, at 8:15 p.m. the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to the public to discuss legal advice and confidential matters.

- a. The Commission reviewed information regarding a financial disclosure filing.
- b. The Commission discussed a closed matter.
- c. The Commission considered outside employment requests and agreed with the recommendations of staff regarding the disposition of the requests.

The meeting reopened at 9:52.

Item 8. The meeting adjourned at 9:55.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel