

**Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission was held virtually via WebEx on January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Suzanne Geckle
- Wendy Slaughter
- Douglas Miller
- Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva
- Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Staff Members Present:

- **Diane Zagorski**, Chief – Bureau of Tax & Specialty Services, Department of Finance, assigned to assist the Commission pursuant to Code Section 10.310 (h).
- **Brenna Punte-Pinos, Chief** – Bureau of Water/Sewer & Misc Revenue, Department of Finance
- **Kristen Perry**, Deputy County Solicitor, Attorney for Finance
- **Amanda Mihill**, Assistant County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law
- **Rafiu Ighile**, Director of Finance

Special Guest:

- **Jared DeMarinis**, Director – Division of Candidacy & Campaign Finance, Maryland State Board of Elections

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

1. Administrative Items

- o Mr. Miller motioned to approve the minutes from October 12, 2021 Meeting. Ms. Rodriguez-Panqueva seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- o Ms. Geckle confirmed date of the next meeting will be scheduled for April 4th, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

2. Response to Request for Guidance on Candidate eligibility

- o The Commission discussed a candidate's eligibility to participate in the CEF program if the candidate received ineligible contributions before filing a notice of intent to participate in the Program. Mr. DeMarinis shared perspective on candidate eligibility. Commission members also heard from members of the public on this issue. Based on the Commission's discussion, Ms. Geckle will write a

response to the request for guidance.

3. Possible Amendment to Section 10.306(a)(3)(i)

- Several members of the public were allowed to speak to the Commission regarding their interpretation of Section 10.306(a)(3)(1).
- Ms. Geckle made a motion to write a letter requesting the Director of Finance to reconsider his decision not to disburse funds for the primary election and include the County Executive as a carbon copy. Ms. Bevan-Dangel seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
- Ms. Geckle made a motion to write a letter to the County Council and County Executive to make CB 6-2022 emergency legislation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and the Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
- Ms. Deb Jung, current County Council member and certified candidate under the CEF program, requested Ms. Geckle to release a public statement.

4. Complaint Process

- Ms. Bevan-Dangel will review the form letter used by State Ethics Commission and will share with the Commission Members at the next meeting.

5. Ethics Commission Opinion on Donations by Commission Members to Participating Candidates

- Ms. Geckle shared with the Commission that she will be sharing a copy of the Howard County Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion regarding campaign contributions from Commission Members.

6. Adjournment:

- Upon motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Geckle, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 7:36pm.