

**Howard County Ethics Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Ethics Commission was held on January 20, 2021 via Webex.

Commission Members Present: Charles Fuller, Chair
Joanne Drielak, Vice Chair
Joseph Markwordt
Jonathan Kromm
Jean Xu

Staff Members Present: Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Executive Secretary to the Commission

Chairperson Fuller called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:07 p.m. The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Agenda: The Commission reviewed and approved the proposed Agenda upon a motion by Drielak seconded by Xu, passed unanimously.
2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on November 9, 2020 and upon a motion by Markwordt, seconded by Drielak, the minutes passed unanimously.
3. The Commission held the meeting open for comments from the public to the proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the Howard County Ethics Commission. A redlined version of the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure were posted on the Commission's website. No member of the public appeared to discuss the Rules of Procedure. The Commission approved the Rules of Procedure, as amended, upon a motion by Drielak, seconded by Kromm, and passed unanimously.
4. The Commission discussed scheduling the next meeting and instructed Attorney Perry to notify the Commission when next meeting is required and scheduling would be considered then.
5. Motion by Xu to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Closed Meeting, which was seconded by Markwordt and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:21 p.m. The Commission put on the record that it would not be going back into open session.

Closed Meeting: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: January 20, 2021

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:28 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice regarding Advisory Opinion 2021-01, and approval of Closed Meeting minutes from November 9, 2020 meeting.

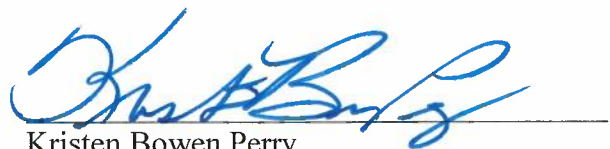
Authority to Close: (1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; (2) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(13): To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and (3) To comply with the Commission's Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, "the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request."

Listing of topics discussed: Advisory Opinion 2021-01: The Commission discussed legal issues related to same, and listened to presentations made by requestor, and others related to the issue raised by requestor in Advisory Opinion Inquiry 2021-01.

Persons present: Attorney Perry; Members: Fuller, Drielak, Kromm, Markwordt and Xu.

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel.

Upon motion by Markwordt, and seconded by Drielak, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the Closed Meeting.



Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 6/16/21