

**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 June 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Suzanne Geckle
- Douglas Miller
- Jennifer Bevan-Dangel
- Ralph Frith
- Keith Ohlinger
- Nadine Bernard

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
- **Kim Boyd-Washington**, Deputy Director of Finance

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m.

1. Administrative Items

- o Introductions and welcome to new Commission member, Ms. Nadine Bernard.
- o Mr. Frith motioned to approve the closed meeting minutes from April 4, 2022. Mr. Ohlinger seconded the motion. There was an unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- o Ms. Geckle motioned to approve the minutes from April 4, 2022 meeting. Mr. Ohlinger 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 September 6, 2022 at 6:00p.m.
- o The Commission decided to keep meetings as virtual sessions and will reassess if a change is needed at each meeting.

2. Questions Received by the Commission

- o The Commission discussed the process for responding to inquiries and the timeline for responses. It was decided not to make any process changes at this time. The Commission will provide responses to inquiries based on the

information outlined in Summary Guide and FAQs and request clarification about County Code if necessary.

3. FAQ Review

- Mr. Frith motioned to approve the revisions to the FAQ's. Mr. Ohlinger seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the FAQ revisions.

4. Complaint Process

- The Commission reviewed the complaint form used by the Ethics Commission and discussed changes necessary to be able to use a similar form for the Citizens' Election Fund. Ms. Zagorski will submit a draft complaint form to the Commission for review before the next meeting.
- Ms. Geckle will send a draft of language to be published to the website along with the compliant form to the Commission for review before the next meeting.
- Commission discussed leaving a decision up to the Commission Chair to decide in a meeting needs to be held as a result of a complaint.

5. Candidates & Budget

- As of 6/28/2022, a total of 4 candidates have been certified for County Council for districts 1,3,4 & 5 and 1 candidate has been certified for County Executive. The candidates are as follows:
 - County Executive Candidate: Allan Kittleman
 - County Council District 1: Elizabeth (Liz) Walsh
 - County Council District 3: Christiana Rigby
 - County Council District 4: Deb Jung
 - County Council District 5: Joan Pontius
- Commission noted that the maximum funds that could be disbursed during this election cycle is \$1,040,000.
- In November the Commission will need to determine the amount of money anticipated for the next election cycle and divide up the total amount across the subsequent 4 fiscal years.

6. Adjournment:

- Upon motion by Mr. Ohlinger and seconded by Mr. Miller, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 6:52pm.