

**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 in the Ellicott City/Columbia Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043 on July 1, 2019.

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

Absent: Jean Xu

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

Fuller called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:04 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 Kromm, seconded by Drielak, and passed unanimously.
2. Attorney Perry gave the Commission an overview regarding comments received by Drielak regarding recommendations to amending the Commission's Rules of Procedure and reported that no requested changes to the Charter had been received. The Commission requested Attorney Perry to review the Rules of Procedure, compare with any changes made to the State's rules, and incorporate Drielak's comments for the Commission's review.
3. Attorney Perry gave the Commission an overview as to outstanding Financial Disclosure forms, which were due April 30, 2019, and the Commission discussed sending final notices.
4. Consideration of Advisory Opinion 2019-01. The Requestor, an employee with the Office of Transportation, filed a request for a written advisory opinion. Requestor was seeking an opinion as to whether his future wife's employment with a company which does business with the County created a conflict of interest with his employment with the County.

Motion by Drielak to adjourn Open Meeting and go into closed meeting, which was seconded by Markwordt and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:14 p.m.

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

Date of Closed Meeting: July 1, 2019

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:14 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: George/Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott City Room, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice, on one confidential advisory opinion.

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; (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;" (4) Howard County Code §22.203(m)(3): "The Commission shall publish or otherwise make available to the public copies of the advisory opinions, with the identities of the subjects deleted."

Listing of topics discussed: Advisory Opinion 2019-01: The Commission reviewed, deliberated, and sought legal advice regarding the applicability and interpretation of the Code as it applied to Advisory Opinion 2019-01.

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

Actions taken: Deliberated, consulted with counsel, reviewed Howard County Code, and issued verbal authorization to the Commission's attorney for one written advisory opinion.

Upon motion by Drielak, and seconded by Markwordt, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the closed meeting and re-open the open meeting. The open meeting was then called to order by Fuller and re-opened for a short discussion about the next meeting, wherein members agreed that the next meeting will be scheduled as needed. Upon motion by Drielak and seconded by Kromm, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 6:42 p.m.



Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 7/30/19