

**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 October 3, 2019.

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

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

Chairperson Fuller called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:09 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. The Commission discussed possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Howard County Ethics Commission. The Commission decided a form Complaint should be posted on the Commission website. The Commission requested Attorney Perry to create a redline with all discussed amendments.
3. Motion by Markwordt to adjourn Open Meeting and go into closed meeting, which was seconded by Xu and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:54 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: October 3, 2019

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:54 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 reconsideration of a confidential Inquiry, 2019-03 and to seek legal advice regarding rules of procedure.

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; attorney-client privilege; 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) §22.203(n)(9) (i) After a complaint is filed and until a final finding of a violation by the Commission, all actions regarding a complaint are confidential.”

Listing of topics discussed:

Consideration of Inquiry 2019-03: The Commission reviewed, deliberated, and sought legal advice regarding the applicability and interpretation of the Code as it applied to the Inquiry 2019-03, along with prior decisions from the Commission.

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

Actions taken: Deliberated, consulted with counsel, reviewed Howard County Code and Charter, and issued verbal authorization and directives to the Commission’s attorney to refer Inquiry 2019-03 to the County Solicitor for investigation pursuant to HC §22.203(n)(3), which provides that “The Commission may refer a complaint to the County Solicitor, or other legal counsel if appropriate, for investigation and review.”

Upon motion by Markwordt, and seconded by Drielak, 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.

Upon motion by Kromm and seconded by Drielak, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 8:12 p.m.



Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 11/13/19