

**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 November 13, 2019.

Commission Members Present: Charles Fuller, Chair
Joanne Drielak
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 6:05 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 Markwordt, and passed unanimously.
2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on October 3, 2019 upon a motion by Drielak, seconded by Markwordt, and passed unanimously.
3. Pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Commission discussed and voted for the next Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to serve from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Upon motion by Xu, seconded by Markwordt, the Commission unanimously chose Charles Fuller to serve as Chair of the Commission. Further, upon motion by Markwordt, seconded by Fuller, the Commission unanimously chose Joanne Drielak to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission.
4. The Commission discussed possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Howard County Ethics Commission. Attorney Perry circulated a redline of the Commission's comments with respect to the Rules and discussion on the proposals will be at the next scheduled meeting.
5. Motion by Markwordt to adjourn Open Meeting and go into closed meeting, which was seconded by Drielak and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 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: November 13, 2019

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:18 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 2019-04: The Commission reviewed, deliberated, and sought legal advice regarding the applicability and interpretation of the Code as it applied to the Inquiry 2019-04.

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 notify the complainant with the result. Specifically, that Inquiry 2019-04 has been dismissed. Counsel is instructed to include a brief explanation in the notification to the complainant.

Upon motion by Markwordt, and seconded by Kromm, 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 Markwordt and seconded by Drielak, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.



Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 2/10/2020