A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Citizens’ Election Fund Commission was held in the 1st Floor, Columbia-Ellicott City Conference Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043 on January 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:
Suzanne Geckle
Mary Marker
Douglas Miller
Lillian Norris-Holmes
Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva
Wendy Slaughter

Commission Members Absent:
David Loeffler

Staff Members Present:
- Charmaine Wilson, Chief - Bureau of Revenue Tax and Specialty Services, Department of Finance, assigned to assist the Commission pursuant to Code Section 10.310 (h).
- Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Attorney for Finance
- Andrew Galarza, Office of Budget

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Approval of November 12, 2019 meeting minutes:
   - Ms. Wilson requested 1 change to the meeting minutes.
   - Ms. Geckle motions to approve the minutes with the changes, Ms. Rodriguez-Panqueva seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

2. Schedule next meeting:
   Next meeting is tentatively set for April 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

3. Recommended Funding Level:
   - The Commission discussed the Funding recommendation submitted with Mr. Galarza. Mr. Galarza confirmed it was received and will follow-up to assure the Commission that it was accepted.
4. **Summary Guide and Manual:**
- Montgomery County’s summary guide and manual will be used as a reference and updated with specifics to Howard County’s code.
- Ms. Perry will insert the information as it relates to County Code, County Charter and State Legislation and send to the Commission members for review by February 4, 2020

5. **FAQ Template:**
- The Commission members will review Montgomery County’s FAQ after the Summary Draft has been completed

6. **Section 10.310 (g)(3):**
- The Commission and Ms. Perry discussed the required meetings pursuant to County Code Section 10.310 (g) (3) and determined that a calendar should be distributed to the members to map out the meeting dates pursuant to County Code.

7. **Proposed Legislation:**
- Ms. Geckle discussed a Proposed Bill from Senator Clarence Lam Maryland’s 12th District which proposed funding of the Board of Education Election and using the Citizens’ Election Fund as a source to fund candidates running for election.

8. **Closed Meeting Requested 6:40 pm:**
- Upon motion by Ms. Marker and seconded by Ms. Geckle, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting for Legal Counsel.

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

**Date of Closed Meeting:** January 14, 2020

**Time of Closed Meeting:** Approximately 6:40 p.m.

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

**Purpose:** To seek legal advice regarding interpretation of the County Code related to the Commission.

**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.

**Listing of topics discussed:**
The Commission sought legal advice regarding the interpretation of the County Code related to the Commission (Section 10.310(c)).
Persons present: Attorney Perry; Members: Suzanne Geckle; Mary Marker; Douglas Miller; Lillian Norris-Holmes; Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva; Wendy Slaughter; Staff: Charmaine Wilson; Andrew Galarza

Actions taken: Deliberated, consulted with counsel, discussed interpretation of the Howard County Code related to the Commission.

Closed Meeting Adjourned and Opened Meeting Reopened 6:47 pm:
- Upon motion by Dr. Norris-Holmes and seconded by Mr. Miller, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the closed meeting and re-open the open meeting.

9. Commission Fielded Public Questions/Comments:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm