

**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 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