

**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 virtually on August 17, 2020 via Webex.

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 6:03 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 Kromm, passed unanimously.
2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on June 17, 2020 and upon a motion by Kromm, seconded by Markwordt, the minutes passed unanimously.
3. 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. The Commission directed Attorney Perry to move forward in the process to finalize updated proposed Rules of Procedure.
4. The Commission discussed scheduling the next meeting and instructed Attorney Perry to notify the Commission when next meeting is required and scheduling would be considered then.
5. Motion by Xu to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Closed Meeting, which was seconded by Markwordt and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:16 p.m. As indicated on the Agenda, and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, the Commission stated that the body would not reconvene in open session after the conclusion of the Closed Meeting.

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

Date of Closed Meeting: August 17, 2020

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:16 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Virtually Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice, on Inquiry/Complaint 2019-03 and lobbyist registration.

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; and (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: The Commission dismissed status of Inquiry/Complaint 2019-03.

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

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel. After legal discussion, Markwordt made a Motion to dismiss Inquiry/Complaint 2019-03, which was seconded by Kromm and passed unanimously.

/s/Kristen Bowen Perry
Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary
Date Approved: 11/9/2020