

**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 on November 9, 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 6:11 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 Xu, passed unanimously.
2. Conflict Waiver Request: Consideration for Waiver request filed by Jason Sagel to seek a waiver to allow for his secondary employer, Vytis Shield LLC, to seek to do business with the County regarding the sale of goods and services related to infection prevention. Mr. Sagel, testified under oath, and presented testimony to the Commission regarding the request. Further, in support of Mr. Sagel's request, testimony was provided by Police Lieutenant Kristopher Knutson, Police Sergeant Perry Thorsvik, and Timothy Milan, President of Vytis Shield. Upon motion by Markwordt to approve waiver with specific guidelines, seconded by Drielak, by unanimous vote a waiver, with guidelines, was granted.
3. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on August 17, 2020 and upon a motion by Drielak, seconded by Markwordt, the minutes passed unanimously.
4. The Commission discussed the proposed Amended Rules of Procedure and Attorney Perry stated that she would schedule the next meeting for January and would publish notice of the amendments to the Rules per the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.

5. Motion by Xu to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Closed Meeting, which was seconded by Kromm and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:51 p.m. Commission put on the record that it did not intend in going back into open session after 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: November 9, 2020

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 7:05 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice regarding Conflict Waiver Request 2020-02, Advisory Opinion Inquiry 2020-02, and approval of Closed Meeting minutes from August 17, 2020 meeting.

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) To comply with the Commission's Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, "the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request."

Listing of topics discussed: Conflict Waiver Request 2020-02; Advisory Opinion Inquiry 2020-02: The Commission discussed legal issues related to same, and listened to presentation made by requestors of Advisory Opinion Inquiry 2020-2.

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

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel. Made determination to grant Conflict Waiver Request 2020-02 with conditions and made decision on Advisory Opinion 2020-02.

Upon motion by Drielak, and second by Markwordt, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the Closed Meeting. Closed Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:19 pm.



Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 1-20-2021