



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of January 16, 2013

### Minutes

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

##### Commissioners:

Nina Weisbroth, Chair  
Stuart Rick, Vice Chair  
Kenita Barrow  
Rachel Brown  
Mark L. Greenblatt

##### Staff Members:

Robert Cobb, Chief Counsel  
Victoria Bullard-Vinson, Program Manager

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Item 2. Victoria Bullard-Vinson was welcomed as the new Program Manager for the Ethics Commission. Some recent and very positive developments in office operations and program procedures and resulting from the addition of Victoria were discussed.

Item 3. The minutes from the 11/15/12 meeting were approved with one minor edit.

Item 4. Pursuant to the requirement in Section 19A-5(d) of the Public Ethics Law for the Ethics Commission to select a Chair annually, Stuart Rick was nominated and by unanimous vote elected Chair. Mr. Rick's first act as Chair was to thank Nina Weisbroth for her extended service as the prior Chair and service to the Commission overall. Nominations for Vice Chair were then conducted and Kenita Barrow was nominated and by unanimous vote elected Vice Chair.

Item 5. Robert Cobb gave an update on the implementation of the Lobbying online registration system, indicating that while there have been some glitches in implementation, that the system is working well. Lobbyists are registering and paying the registration fees in accordance with instructions and no major problem has been encountered.

Montgomery County Ethics Commission

100 Maryland Avenue, Room 204, Rockville, MD 20850  
OFFICE 240-777-6670, FAX 240-777-6672

Item 6. Cobb gave a brief overview of developments in personnel and FY 14 budget matters. The selection process for a Program Specialist II is proceeding as is the annual budget process.

Item 7. Cobb raised an issue not on the agenda. The Commission had previously approved a proposed regulatory provision relating to renewals of outside employment requests; that regulatory proposal would allow departments to grant extensions without submitting them to the Ethics Commission. Cobb indicated the proposal would be improved if it included a sentence requiring departments to notify the Ethics Commission of approvals it makes. In this fashion, the Ethics Commission could ensure that it was aware of the status of employees with outside employment approvals (including extensions.)

Item 8. Discussion was held by the Commission regarding an exchange of emails relating to a technical amendment to the financial disclosure portion of the Public Ethics Law. No further action at this time is required.

Item 9. The Commission was informed that pursuant to the Public Ethics Law, confidential financial disclosure reports are to be destroyed after 6 years. While there is a minimum retention of other documents for the Ethics Commission for 4 years, there is no maximum retention for public financial disclosure reports. The Commission discussed a motion to make the retention schedule for public financial disclosure reports to be six years. After discussion of the motion, the motion was passed on a unanimous vote of the Commission. Cobb is to inform Chris Daniel of DTS of the decision so that appropriate adjustments to the FDS can be made so financial disclosure records are purged after 6 years.

Item 10. At the suggestion of the new Chair, the Commission decided to defer discussion of the proposed changes to the financial disclosure law until a dedicated meeting for that purpose could occur. The Commission suggested the later part of February as an appropriate time to convene a dedicated meeting, with Cobb to propose dates.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Cobb  
Chief Counsel