



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of May 19, 2015

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Kenita V. Barrow, Chair
Claudia Herbert
Steve Rosen

Staff Members:

Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel
Erin Chu, Program Manager

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The minutes from the 4/14/2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Item 3. Mr. Cobb discussed the status of the annual financial disclosure cycle. He reported that all annual reports had been filed but one, and that one was due to an employee being ill.

Item 4. Mr. Cobb gave an update on the roll-out of the outside employment online system; the roll-out is to take place on June 24, 2016. In connection with the implementation of the new system and the 3 year maximum for approvals which the Commission previously approved, the Commission approved staff's proposal to expire the effectiveness of all legacy paper outside employment approvals one year from the date of the launch of the new system. Therefore, any preexisting paper approval from prior to June 24, 2015 will need to be renewed in the new system by June 24, 2016 to continue in effect beyond that date. The Chair emphasized the importance of adequate notice to affected employees.

Item 5. The Commission considered the proposed letter to the County Council regarding amendments to the Public Ethics Law. The Commission approved sending the letter as edited by the Chair. As regards the attachments, the Commission approved the sending of the attachments with some of the edits that were identified in an email from Commissioner Greenblatt and discussed at the meeting. The Commission also approved the editing of the “interest or economic interest” definition to expand the scope of the exception for mutual funds to include exchange traded funds, and to exclude the limitation on the exception for sector and area funds.

Item 6. As regards the letter concerning the outside employment of police, the Commission approved the letter with minor edits to the draft.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Cobb".

Robert W. Cobb