

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

OPEN MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024

A meeting of the Baltimore County Ethics Commission was called to order at 4:13 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2024. The meeting was held in person in Room 118 of the Historic Courthouse and consisted of both an open session and a closed session. The initial (open) session began at 4:13 p.m. Present were:

Laura Ray, Commissioner
Sasha Rousseau, Commissioner
Hunter Piel, Commissioner

Also present were Tracey Paliath, Executive Director of the Ethics Commission, and James R. Benjamin Jr. County Attorney, counsel for the Commission. Absent were Mande Heintz, Chair, and Kevin Murphy, Commissioner

Call to Order:

Director Paliath called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Piel to approve the open and closed meeting minutes for the October 15, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Director Paliath reported that she met with the County Administrative Officer and Office of Human Resources Director to discuss who should be filing (we also got input from Office of Law). It's been about five years since this has been looked at and the County Administrative Officer asked us to review all job descriptions to determine who should be filing. The CAO would like Director Paliath and the Director of Human Resources to develop written criteria for who has to file and look into the legislative history of who was designated as a mandatory filer and why.

Director Paliath also reported that the new instructional videos and side-by-side instructions that were created have been posted to the Ethics Commission website.

Finally, Director Paliath reported that she worked with the County Council Legislative Secretary to alter the wording for filing financial disclosures for Interim County Executive applicants so that the website would be clear where those candidates should file. Director Paliath has also

been assisting applicants in filing their financial disclosures and sending copies of the filed financial disclosures to the County Council Legislative Secretary.

Move into Closed Session:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray to move into closed session as names of complaints and respondents would be mentioned and legal advice was needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piel. The Commissioners were polled and the motion unanimously passed. The Commission went into closed session at 4:18 p.m.

End of Closed Session

At 4:53 p.m. Commissioner Piel made a motion to go back into open session; it was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau and the members were polled. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went back into open session.

Move into Open Session

The next meeting will be held in person on December 12, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Piel and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau and passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Paliath, Executive Director