

## **MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

### **OPEN MEETING OF JULY 2, 2024**

A meeting of the Baltimore County Ethics Commission was called to order at 3:37 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. The meeting was held in person in Conference Room 118 of the Historic Courthouse and consisted of both an open session and a closed session. The initial (open) session began at 3:37 p.m. Present were:

Laura Ray, Commissioner  
Kevin Murphy, 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.

#### **Call to Order and Introductions:**

Executive Director Paliath called the meeting to order. The meeting began with Introductions because Commissioner Piel was attending his first meeting.

#### **Minutes:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the open meeting minutes for the June 18, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Director Paliath reported that two financial disclosure filers (both are on Boards) had not filed their financial disclosures for 2023. Commissioners Ray and Murphy suggested that Director Paliath ask the Board liaisons from these boards to hand a letter to those who had not yet filed at their next Board meeting. The letter should say that the Board members would be fined if they did not file their disclosure within 30 days of receiving the letter and that they were jeopardizing their positions on their Boards. Director Paliath also reported that all but one lobbyist had filed their 2023 lobbying activity report and that the State Ethics Commission advised that we could contact the lobbyist's employer. The Commission agreed that they wanted Director Paliath to make this contact.

#### **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. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy.

The Commissioners were polled and the motion unanimously passed. The Commission went into closed session at 3:52 pm.

### **End of Closed Session**

At 5:09 p.m. Commissioner Ray made a motion to go back into open session; it was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau and passed unanimously. The Commission went back into open session.

### **Move into Open Session**

Director Paliath asked if everyone could attend the next scheduled meeting on August 6. Commissioner Piel indicated he would be unavailable but the remaining Commissioners would be available so the Commission decided to move forward with the next meeting on Aug. 6 at 3:30 pm.in person given that there would be a quorum on August 6. The Commissioners decided to add an additional meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm by WebEx.

### **Adjournment**

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Piel and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau at 5:20 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular Ethics Commission Meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Paliath, Executive Director