

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

The Commission was called to order by the Chair at 4:30 p.m. at 400 Washington Avenue, Room 118, Towson, Maryland. Those present at the meeting were:

1. Jeffrey Forman, Esquire – Chairman
2. Lee Jacobson, Esquire – Commissioner
3. Susan Green, Esquire – Commissioner
4. G. Darrell Russell - Commissioner
5. Elaine C. Katz, Esquire - Executive Director
6. Susan Dubin, Esquire – Assistant County Attorney

Commissioner J. Michael Lawlor was not in attendance.

The Chair called for the approval of the minutes for the meeting of July 11, 2017. Commissioner Green moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

The Chair called for the report of the Executive Director. The Commission was updated on the status of the 2016 financial disclosure forms. As of the date of the meeting, approximately 20 forms remain outstanding. This is a smaller number than last year at this time with regard to the 2015 forms.

There being no old business, the Chair called for new business. The Commission was presented with a question posed by a resident of Baltimore County. The resident noted that according to § 3-3-1005(a), the County is required to maintain a list of outside attorneys (not a part of the County Attorney's Office), for situations that may require the use of an outside attorney. The Commissioners recognized the validity of the legal requirement, but determined unanimously that this issue does not fall within the purview of the Ethics Commission.

The Commission was then advised that a complaint has been submitted against an individual. In order to maintain confidentiality, Commissioner Green made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to sections 7-1-104 and 7-1-105 of the County Ethics Law, and in accordance of the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The meeting entered closed session at 4:45p.m. At the request of the Chairman, and in order to avoid any claims of undue influence by person alleged to be affected by the matter for discussion, Executive Director Elaine Katz and Baltimore County Office of Law representative Susan Dubin, left the meeting once it was closed.

The meeting went back into open session at 4:55p.m.

There being no Commission concerns/questions, it was noted that the next meeting of the Ethics Commission will take place Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

Commissioner Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elaine C. Katz, Esquire
Executive Director