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## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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### Town of Hampstead Date of Public Notice: 3/13/15

Pursuant to §5-812(a)(1) of the Maryland Public Ethics Law (Md. Code Ann., Gen Prov. Title 5 (2014)) (“Public Ethics Law”), the State Ethics Commission advises the public and the Town of Hampstead that the jurisdiction has not complied with and has not made good faith efforts toward compliance with the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law.

The Town of Hampstead provided a draft ethics law to the State Ethics Commission for review and approval by the State Ethics Commission in September 2012. The State Ethics Commission reviewed the draft ethics law and provided recommended changes regarding deficiencies in the proposed draft. The proposed draft ethics law did not meet the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law and COMAR 19A.04 in the following areas:

1. The gift exception provisions allow for the acceptance of sporting event tickets by elected local officials, a gift exception not permitted in the Public Ethics Law;
2. The financial disclosure provisions for elected local officials and candidates for local office contain a minimum ownership percentage threshold in interests in corporations and partnership before disclosure is required outside of the financial disclosure requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law, which require disclosure of all interests held in corporations and partnerships, regardless of the value or percentage of ownership;
3. The financial disclosure provisions do not require a final termination statement to be filed by an elected local official within 60 days of leaving local office as required by the Public Ethics Law; and
4. The financial disclosure provisions for local employees and local appointed officials do not identify or list any local employee or local appointed official required to file an annual disclosure of gifts received during the calendar year from any person that contracts with or is regulated by the Town of Hampstead or a disclosure of employment or interests that raise conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest in connection with specific proposed activity of the employee or local official sufficiently in advance of the action to provide adequate disclosure to the public.

The State Ethics Commission has advised the Town of Hampstead of the listed recommended revisions to the local ethics law in writing and requested a revised draft ethics law for review and approval on September 25, 2012, April 12, 2013, July 9, 2013, August 12, 2013, October 22, 2013, October 1, 2014, November 14, 2014 and January 26, 2015.

The Town of Hampstead has not provided the State Ethics Commission with a revised draft ethics law incorporating the recommended changes and has failed to make a good faith effort toward compliance with the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Maryland Public Ethics Law and COMAR 19A.04.