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MINUTES OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING

December 6, 2013

Commission Members Present: Paul M. Vettori, Chairman
Robert G. Blue
Julian L. Lapides
Jacob Yosef Miliman

Staff Members Present: Michael W. Lord, Executive Director
Jennifer K. Allgair, General Counsel

The Commission met at 1:30 p.m. in the Chairman's office at 502 Washington Avenue, Suite 720 in Towson. The meeting was closed to discuss two confidential advice matters.

Informal Matter – Procurement Matters (13-0406 and 13-0431)

Discussion: The Commission met to consider requests by two contractors for advice on the application of the procurement restrictions of § 15-508 to the contractors' respective abilities to participate in a public-private partnership involving the Maryland Transit Administration ("MTA") and a public transportation project. One contractor was represented by both a partner in the firm and counsel for the firm; the second contractor did not attend the meeting. Officials from the MTA were also present.

Decision: Section 15-508 did not preclude either contractor from participating in the public private partnership. The Commission will bring to the attention of the MTA a possible appearance issue, not within the realm of §15-508, that the MTA might wish to address in the future depending on which company is awarded the bid. The Commission will also send a letter to the Attorney General seeking an opinion as to the applicability of §15-508 to public-private partnerships.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.