



COMMISSION MEMBERS:
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KAREN D. MORGAN
MARIELA OLIVARES
JAMES N. ROBEY, JR.
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PANSY S. WATSON
Assistant Counsel

MINUTES OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING

November 14, 2024

Commission Members Present: Craig D. Roswell, Chair
Karen D. Morgan
Mariela Olivares
James N. Robey, Jr.

Commission Member Absent: Geneau M. Thames

Staff Members Present: Jennifer K. Allgair, Executive Director
William J. Colquhoun, General Counsel
Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel
Ana L. Henry, Assistant General Counsel
Pansy S. Watson, Assistant Counsel
Stephen Garrett, Paralegal
Maura Pizzi, Paralegal
Darlene Gavel, Office Manager

The meeting convened at 9:13 a.m. at 45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor conference room. Karen Morgan was introduced as the newest Commission member. Mr. Roswell noted Bonnie Kirkland's term ended and a Commission citation will be presented to her thanking her for her service. Those listed as present participated in all portions of the meeting unless otherwise noted. If other individuals participated in aspects of the meeting, they will be identified in the specific line item where their participation occurred.

ITEM 1: Tentative Agenda

Discussion: The Commission reviewed the tentative agenda.

Decision: The tentative agenda was approved as adjusted.

ITEM 2: Minutes of the September 12, 2024, Meeting

Discussion: The draft minutes of the September 12, 2024, meeting was reviewed and discussed.

Decision: The draft minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: Executive Director's Report – Status of Electronic Training

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the status of the electronic training modules. MPT has provided a final version of the elected officials training for review and the draft ethics training for State employees was just submitted.

ITEM 4: Local Government – Calvert County (24-0751)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for Calvert County.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 5: Local Government – Howard County (24-0754)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for Howard County.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 6: Local Government – Garrett County (24-0769)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for Garrett County.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 7: Local Government – Caroline County (24-0799)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics regulation for Caroline County.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 8: Local Government – Town of Snow Hill (24-0649)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for the Town of Snow Hill.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 9: Local Government – Town of Greensboro (24-0773)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for the Town of Greensboro.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 10: Local Government – Baltimore City (24-0830)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for Baltimore City.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Ms. Olivares and seconded by Mr. Robey to close the meeting to the public pursuant to §3-305(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act to consider confidential advice matters and enforcement matters per §5-303 and §5-407 of the Public Ethics Law, and to receive the advice of counsel pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) of the Open Meetings Act. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of closing the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

ITEM 11: C-5-23 and C-3-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on these matters.

Decision: The Commission accepted the settlement agreements in these matters.

ITEM 12: A-37-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed.

ITEM 13: A-40-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 14: A-41-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 15: A-45-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: A complaint will be issued in this matter. (C-10-24)

ITEM 16: A-48-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-12-24)

ITEM 17: A-51-24

Decision: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-13-24)

ITEM 18: B-10-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the settlement agreement.

ITEM 19: C-2-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission will issue a notice of hearing.

ITEM 20: A-35-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

ITEM 21: A-46-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: A complaint will be issued in this matter. (C-9-24)

ITEM 22: A-49-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission authorized complaints in these matters.

ITEM 23: A-50-24

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission authorized complaints in these matters.

(Ms. Thompson, Ms. Allgair, Ms. Watson, Mr. Garrett and Ms. Pizzi participated in the briefings to the Commission, but did not participate in the decisions regarding Items 11 through 23.)

ITEM 24: Informal Matter – Memo on Non-Participation Plans and Mitigation Agreements

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun presented three non-participation agreements or mitigation agreements provided and approved by the staff. The matters included 24-0144, 24-0770 and 24-0832.

ITEM 25: Informal Matter –University of Maryland Baltimore (24-0713)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the University of Maryland Baltimore wanting to work with another university that has sponsored research agreements with the University of Maryland Baltimore.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 26: Informal Matter – Department of Human Services (24-0758)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Human Services wanting to work with an entity that makes referrals to the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 27: Informal Matter – Department of Human Services (24-0761)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Human Services wanting to work with an entity that has a business relationship with the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 28: Informal Matter – Maryland State Department of Education (24-0811)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding a member of the Maryland State Board of Education wanting to work with a nonprofit that does business with county school boards.

Decision: The Commission determined that the outside employment was permitted as long as the nonprofit avoids lobbying or doing business with the State Board of Education.

ITEM 29: Informal Matter – Maryland Technology Development Corporation (24-0826)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation wanting to work as Adjunct Professor with a University that receives grants from the Corporation.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 30: Informal Matter – Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (24-0812)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency wanting to work at a wholesale club that has a regulatory and business relationship with the Agency.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 31: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0847)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Discussion: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 32: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0848)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 33: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0852)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 34: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0853)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 35: Informal Matter – Maryland Stadium Authority (24-0838)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on a participation request regarding a board member at the Maryland Stadium Authority.

Decision: The Commission will advise the board member that they may not participate in any matters that relate to a client of their employer.

ITEM 36: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0858)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 37: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0865)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 38: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0881)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 39: Informal Matter – Department of Health (24-0884)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee in the Department of Health wanting to work for an entity that is regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 40: Informal Matter – Executive Branch Official (24-0892)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a notification that the Commission had received regarding Section 5-505(c)(2)(vi) that an official in the Executive Branch in exchange for speaking at an event had allowable expenses paid by a lobbyist that exceeds \$500.

ITEM 41: 2025 Proposed Departmental Legislation and Legislative Update

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the two proposed departmental bills being accepted by the Governor's Legislative Office and other potential bills that may impact on the Public Ethics Law.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.