



COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CRAIG D. ROSWELL, *Chair*
KAREN D. MORGAN
MARIELA OLIVARES
JAMES N. ROBEY, JR.
GENEAU M. THAMES

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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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

MINUTES OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING

March 27, 2025

Commission Members Present: Craig D. Roswell, Chair
Karen D. Morgan
Mariela Olivares
James N. Robey, Jr.
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
Aida Canales, Paralegal
Darlene Brocki Gavel, Office Manager

The meeting convened at 9:07 a.m. at 45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor conference room. 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 January 16, 2025, Meeting

Discussion: The draft minutes of January 16, 2025, meeting was reviewed and discussed.

Decision: The draft minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: Financial Disclosure Additions and Deletions

Discussion: Ms. Allgair presented a listing of the proposed additions and deletions to the financial disclosure list recommended by State agencies and reviewed by Financial Disclosure Administrator, Young Smith and Executive Director, Jennifer Allgair. The recommendations covered the Attorney General's Office, Anne Arundel Community College, Higher Education Commission, Department of Commerce, Treasurer's Office, Carroll Community College, State Retirement Agency, College of Southern Maryland, Department of Information Technology, Department of Health, Military Department, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Housing & Community Development, Maryland Transportation Authority, University of Maryland Global Campus, State Highway Administration, Motor Vehicle Administration, Executive Department, Maryland Port Administration, Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Aging, Department of Budget & Management, Department of Agriculture, University of Baltimore, Office of People's Counsel, University System of Maryland, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Department of Veterans & Military Families, Wor-Wic Community College, Department of Human Services, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy, Department of Education, West North Avenue Development Authority, Public Service Commission and the Public Broadcasting Commission.

Decision: The Commission approved Ms. Allgair's recommendations on financial disclosure position additions and deletions.

ITEM 5: Draft 2024 Annual Report

Discussion: There was a general discussion of the Commission's draft Annual Report.

Decision: The draft Annual Report was approved.

ITEM 5: Executive Director's Report – Update on New Training Modules

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the status of the training modules being developed by Maryland Public Television.

ITEM 6: Local Government – Town of Easton (24-0994)

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

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 7: Local Government – Prince George's County (25-0089)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the local ethics ordinance for Prince George's County.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed amendments.

ITEM 8: Local Government – Howard County (25-0151)

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Robey and seconded by Ms. Thames 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 9:17 a.m.

ITEM 9: A-16-23

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-3-25)

ITEM 10: A-26-24

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

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 11: A-39-24

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

Decision: This matter will be closed.

ITEM 12: A-57-24

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

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 13: A-5-25

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

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 14: A-6-25

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-4-25)

ITEM 15: A-7-25

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

Decision: The Commission declined to issue the complaint.

ITEM 16: A-8-25

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-5-25)

ITEM 17: A-9-25

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-6-25)

ITEM 18: A-10-25

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

Decision: This matter will be closed.

ITEM 19: A-11-25

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

Decision: A complaint will be issued in this matter. (C-2-25)

ITEM 20: A-14-25

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-7-25)

ITEM 21: A-15-25

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-8-25)

ITEM 22: A-16-25

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

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-9-25)

ITEM 23: A-17-25

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

Decision: These matters will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-10-25, B-11-25, B-12-25)

ITEM 24: B-5-24

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

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 25: B-9-24

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

Decision: A complaint will be issued in this matter. (C-1-25)

ITEM 26: C-10-24

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

Decision: The Commission accepted the Settlement Agreement in this matter.

ITEM 27: A-2-25

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

Decision: This matter is closed.

ITEM 28: A-12-25

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

Decision: The Commission authorized complaints in these matters.

ITEM 29: A-13-25

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

Decision: The Commission authorized complaints in these matters.

ITEM 30: C-2-24

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

Decision: The Commission authorized a motion to continue the hearing.

(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 9 through 30.)

ITEM 31: Informal Matters – Secondary Employment Requests

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun, Ms. Henry and Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on secondary employment requests regarding employees in the Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Agriculture working at an entity that is regulated by the Department or has a business relationship with the Department. The matters included: 25-0021, 25-0035, 25-0039, 25-0042, 25-0043, 25-0071, 25-0074, 25-0084, 25-0085, 25-0094, 25-0095, 25-0096, 25-0099, 25-0100, 25-0104, 25-0106, 25-0107, 25-0110, 25-0118, 25-0122, 25-0125, 25-0127, 25-0128, 25-0130, 25-0131, 25-0134, 25-0138, 25-0140, 25-0144, 25-0153, 25-0194, 25-0197, 25-0205, 25-0244, 25-0256, 25-0271, 25-0073,

25-0169, 25-0200, 25-0203, 25-0234, 25-0259, 25-0286, 25-0287, 25-0288, 25-0290, 25-0291, 25-0292 and 25-0295.

Decision: The Commission granted exceptions to allow secondary employment for all matters.

ITEM 32: Informal Matter – Memo on Non-Participation Plans and Mitigation Agreements

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun presented one non-participation plan or mitigation agreement provided and approved of by the staff. The matter included 25-0124.

ITEM 33: Informal Matter – Maryland Stadium Authority (25-0249)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a non-participation agreement checklist developed by the Maryland Stadium Authority for advice from the Commission.

Decision: The Commission advised that the checklist was consistent with the Public Ethics Law and encouraged the Maryland Stadium Authority to provide the Commission with any questions its members or employees had regarding the checklist.

ITEM 34: Informal Matter – Office of the Attorney General (25-0170)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on whether employees who took the deferred resignation from the federal government and started state employment need to have their employment reviewed as secondary employment while receiving deferred compensation.

Decision: The Commission advised that this need not be reviewed as secondary employment.

ITEM 35: Informal Matter – Blind Trust Update (22-0861)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on the receipt of the Certificate of Continued Compliance regarding a blind trust.

Decision: No further action is needed by the Commission.

ITEM 36: Informal Matter – Department of Health (25-0092)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on a secondary employment and financial interest request regarding an employee in the Department of Health having a business that is regulated by the Department.

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

ITEM 37: Informal Matter –State’s Attorney (25-0183)

Discussion: The Commission was asked to provide advice as to whether a discount was a gift.

Decision: Based upon circumstances the Commission advised that the discount was not a gift but a benefit of employment.

ITEM 38: Legislative Summary of Pending Legislation and Advice of Counsel

Discussion: Ms. Allgair provided updates and provided guidance on proposed legislation which includes SB185/HB166 - Maryland Public Ethics Law - State Officials of and Candidates to be State Officials of the Judicial Branch - Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosure Statements, SB251/HB230 - Maryland Public Ethics Law - Training and Financial Disclosure Requirements – Revisions, HB717 - Natural Resources - Public Lands - Acquisition, Staffing, Operations, and Funding, SB109 – Maryland Public Ethics Law – School Boards – Compliance Certification, and HB 932 – Public Ethics – Conflicts of Interest and Blind Trust – Governor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.