



CECIL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Cecil County Administration Building
c/o Human Resources Department
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2800
Elkton, Maryland 21921
(410) 996-5250 (phone)
1-866-230-2578 (fax)

<https://www.ccgov.org/government/boards-and-commissions/ethics-commission>

Open Meeting Minutes

August 3rd, 2021

Present: Andrew Goins, Charles Kelso, Heather O'Rourke

Absent: Janet Pope

Guest: Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, Anna Gardner, Chief, HR and Ashton Ross, Risk Management/Legal Technician.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Andrew Goins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

- Motion made by Charles Kelso to approve the draft agenda with revisions to agenda, seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.

JUNE 3RD, 2021 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- Motion made by Charles Kelso to approve the draft June 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Andrew Goins, Chair, requested an update for 2019 financial disclosure noncompliance letter responses. Updated information obtained by County Attorney, Lawrence Scott, and Ashton Ross, Risk Management/Legal Technician.
- 11 applicants not responded and/or received their letter.
- Motion made by Charles to task Ashton Ross in seeking a response from financial disclosure applicants to submit their 2019 financial disclosure forms. Motion made by Charles Kelso, seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.
 - Task Ashton Ross seeking a response from financial disclosure applicants by August 30th, 2021



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- After August 30, 2021, final deadline, Andrew Goins, Chair, will prepare a listing of non-compliant 2019 financial disclosure board members for the County Executive recommending termination of their board appointments.
- Motion seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided an overview of the meeting with the State Ethics Commission.
- Will Colquhoun provided counsel that no Ethics Commission member may exempt themselves from filing a financial disclosure.
- Motion made by Charles Kelso, to task Lawrence Scott, County Attorney to draft a letter to previous Ethics Commission members to submit a 2019 and 2020 financial disclosure before October 29, 2021 with statement that failure to submit may lead to a fine. Motion seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.
- Motion made by Charles Kelso to task Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, to continue collaboration with the State Ethics Commission to incorporate newly passed state legislation into the County's Public Ethics Law. Motion seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.
- Ashton Ross provided an update of 2020 financial disclosure forms for County employees and board members. Approximately 75% of the employees and board members have complied.
- Motion made by Charles Kelso to task DHR and Ashton Ross to follow up on those County employees and board members who are non-compliant for 2020. Motion seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.
- Andrew Goins, Chair, requested update from Lawrence Scott regarding revising the financial disclosure forms.
- Lawrence Scott indicated the requirements on forms must meet the minimum requirements of State Ethic's Law.
- Andrew Goins asked for clarification on those required to file State Ethics forms, can Cecil County require a confirmation. Ashton Ross will investigate and provide update at the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:



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- Andrew Goins indicated the Commission needed to go into Close Session to address complaints 19-03 and 19-04 and review Form 3 for potential conflict of interest.
- Motion made by Charles Kelso to move meeting to close session at 5:39pm, seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.
- Motion made by Charles Kelso to move the meeting back to open session at 6:01pm, seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- Andrew Goins advised the Commission would begin reviewing 2020 Lobbyist and 2020 financial disclosure forms.

ADJOURN:

- Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Kelso at 7:37pm, seconded by Heather O'Rourke, approved by all.

NEXT MEETING:

- November 8 2021 at 5:00pm., County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Perryville Room, Elkton, MD.