

**Howard County Ethics Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES-DRAFT*

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Ethics Commission was held in the Ellicott City/Columbia Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 on July 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Charles Fuller, Chair
Joanne Drielak
Joseph Markwordt
Jonathan Kromm
Nellie Hutt

Staff Members Present: Beverly Heydon, Asst. County Solicitor and Counsel and Executive Secretary to the Commission

Heydon called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m. The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Heydon provided an update on the electronic filing of Financial Disclosure Statements for calendar year 2015. All filers have filed.
2. The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the May, 2016, meeting. Grammatical corrections were made. Fuller moved to accept the draft minutes as corrected. Drielak seconded. The Commission voted 4-0 to accept the corrected draft minutes as final. Hutt abstained because she was not present for the May meeting.

Motion by Fuller to adjourn Open Meeting and go into closed meeting, which was seconded by Kromm and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

Closed Meeting: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: July 20, 2016

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:18 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: George/Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott City Room, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice, on six confidential advisory opinions.

Authority to Close: 1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; 2) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(13): To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; 3) To comply with the Commission's Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, "the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request;" 4) Howard County Code §22.203(m)(3): "The Commission shall publish or otherwise make available to the public copies of the advisory opinions, with the identities of the subjects deleted."

Listing of topics discussed:

1. Inquiry 2016-01: The Commission reviewed, deliberated, and sought legal advice regarding Inquiry 2016-01.
2. Advisory Opinion 2016-09: The Commission reviewed, deliberated, and sought legal advice regarding the applicability and interpretation of the Code as it applied to a confidential Advisory Opinion.
3. Review of closed minutes from May 2016, meeting.

Persons present: Heydon, Drielak, Fuller, Kromm, Hutt, and Markwordt.

Actions taken: Deliberated, consulted with counsel, reviewed Howard County Code, and issued verbal authorization to the Commission's attorney for one written advisory opinion and one letter addressing Inquiry 2016-01.

Respectfully submitted and approved:

Beverly Heydon
Executive Secretary

Date

*Draft; subject to approval at next meeting.