

**MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

**CLOSED MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2024**

A meeting of the Baltimore County Ethics Commission was called to order on p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2024. The meeting was held in person and consisted of both an open session and a closed session. The initial (open) session began at 3:45 p.m. Present were:

Mandee Heidl, Chair  
Laura Ray, Commissioner  
Sasha Rousseau, Commissioner  
Hunter Piel, Commissioner  
Kevin Murphy, Commissioner

Also present were Tracey Paliath, Executive Director of the Ethics Commission, and James R. Benjamin Jr. County Attorney, counsel for the Commission.

**Call to Order:**

Chair Heidl called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Piel to approve the open and closed meeting minutes for the December 12, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report**

Director Paliath reported that in late December she sent out reminders to lobbyists that their activity reports are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> per Code section 7-1-506(a)(1).

Director Paliath further reported working closely with OIT on getting the list corrected of who needs to file and who doesn't in the County's financial disclosure apex program due to changes made by CAO.

Lastly, Director Paliath reported being involved in discussions with the Dept. of Aging to fundraise for the Senior Expo in accordance with County code section 7-1-305.1. The Dept. of Aging is also considering whether to request a code change so that the code allows agency department heads to be able to delegate to staff the ability to solicit for the good of the county.

**Old Business:**

**Retention of Financial Disclosures**

The Commission discussed how long to retain financial disclosures as the County policy on this is not clear and the Ethics code does not address it. The Commission reviewed the State policy of retaining disclosures for four years and then completely destroying all disclosures. Chair Heintl made a motion to completely destroy from all servers any disclosures more than four years old and to continue this in a rolling pattern for future years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The motion passed unanimously.

**Move into Closed Session:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy to move into closed session as names of complaints and respondents would be mentioned and legal advice was needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piel. The Commissioners were polled and the motion unanimously passed. The Commission went into closed session at 3:53 p.m.

**End of Closed Session**

At 4:24 p.m. Chair Piel made a motion to go back into open session; it was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and the members were polled. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went back into open session.

**Move into Open Session**

The Commissioners decided to schedule the next 2 meetings. They decided the meetings would be as follows:

March 6 at 3:00 pm – by WebEx  
April 1 at 9:30 am – in person

**Adjournment**

A Motion to Adjourn was made and passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Paliath, Executive Director