

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
BOARD OF ETHICS**

Board Meeting Minutes

**February 10, 2017**

*Present:* Covette Rooney, Board Chair (teleconference)  
Curtis Eugene, Board Member (teleconference)  
Cassandra Burckhalter, Board Member (teleconference in 5:22pm)

Robin Barnes-Shell, Esq., Executive Director (teleconference)  
LaShanda Whaley, Legal Counsel  
LaTonya Davis, Investigator  
Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer  
Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide

*Next meeting:* Friday, March 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm  
9201 Basil Court, Suite 155  
Largo, Maryland 20774

**OPEN SESSION**

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

The Board of Ethics Chair, Covette Rooney, opened the meeting at approximately 5:05 pm and welcomed all in attendance. There was a quorum present with three (3) Board Members. The meeting was held at the Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) located at 9201 Basil Court, Suite 155, Largo, Maryland.

**II. APPROVAL OF 1/13/17 MEETING MINUTES**

The three Board of Ethics (Board) Members in attendance amended the January 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes with a vote of 3-0 at 5:23pm.

**III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

None to report.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The Executive Director informed the Board of pending legislation Senate Bill No. 488 and Senate Bill No. 18 regarding changes to the Board of Licensed Commissioners and any impact it may have on OEA.

The Executive Director informed the Board of OEA's monthly mandatory ethics trainings conducted in January and February with the attendance of ten (10) and twenty-two (22) County employees, respectively. OEA continues to offer ongoing mandatory ethics training for board and commissions members.

The Executive Director informed the Board of OEA's diligent Financial Disclosure Statement collection efforts and communications for calendar year 2016 disclosures which are due by April 30, 2017.

The Executive Director informed the Board there were forty-five (45) registered lobbyists for 2016 with the submission of forty (40) annual reports to date. There were twenty-seven (27) registered lobbyists for 2017.

The Executive Director informed the Board of the number of ethics advice and information requests received by OEA for the month of January.

#### **V. Reading of Written Statement for Closing Meeting Under the Open Meeting Act**

At 5:22 pm a motion was made by Board Chair Covette Rooney and seconded by Board Member Curtis Eugene to close the open portion of the meeting to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter and to consult with legal counsel. The statement was read by the Board Chair Covette Rooney. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0. The reason for closing the meeting, and the topics discussed with legal counsel involved employees' disciplinary action for an ethics violation and a complaint that was referred to the Board for a possible ethics violation, in accordance with the State Government Article, §10-508(a). Those in attendance were as follows:

Covette Rooney, Board Chair (teleconference)  
Curtis Eugene, Board Member (teleconference)  
Cassandra Burckhalter, Board Member (teleconference)

Robin Barnes-Shell, Esq., Executive Director (teleconference)  
LaShanda Whaley, Legal Counsel  
LaTonya Davis, Investigator

Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer  
Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Advisory Opinions (17-0135)**

The Board was provided an update of the draft response for guidelines and restrictions to the County Council.

### **Investigation – Case # 17-0039**

The Board was provided with an update on the investigation of alleged misuse of prestige of office by a County employee.

### **Information Request – Case #17-0014**

The Board was provided with an update on the investigation of prestige of office/fraud regarding a property manager of a Housing Authority owned property.

### **Ethics Advice – Case # 17-0103**

The Board was provided with an update on an advisory opinion previously issued and possible appeal.

### **Ethics Advice – Case #17-0129**

The Board was updated on an agency request for assistance on a potential prestige of office matter; agency was referred to OHRM.

At the conclusion of all business, a motion was made by Board Chair Covette Rooney to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 pm.