

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

Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2018

Present: Covette Rooney, Board Chair (teleconference)
Curtis Eugene, Board Member (teleconference)
Cassandra Burckhalter, Board Member (teleconference)
Sharon Theodore-Lewis, Board Member (teleconference)

Robin Barnes-Shell, Esq., Executive Director
Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer
LaShanda Whaley, Legal Counsel
Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide

Next meeting: January 11, 2019 at 5:00 pm
9201 Basil Court, Suite 155
Largo, Maryland 20774

OPEN SESSION

I. OPENING OF MEETING

The Board Chair, Covette Rooney, opened the meeting at approximately 5:05 pm and welcomed all in attendance. There was a quorum present with four (4) 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 MEETING MINUTES

The four (4) Board of Ethics (Board) Members in attendance on November 2, 2018, approved the Meeting Minutes with a vote of 4-0.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

None to report.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Executive Director informed the Board that OEA's collection efforts for Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) for calendar year 2018 will be forwarded to County employees/officials electronically. In addition, fifty-two (52) lobbyists have registered for calendar 2018.

The Executive Director informed the Board of OEA's training efforts that included Mandatory Ethics Training for three (3) new employees of Prince George's County Government through the New Employees Orientation Program and one (1) employee via the regularly scheduled monthly ethics trainings (PGCEthics). Additional Mandatory Ethics Trainings will be provided to the new administration.

The Board was updated on the status of the proposed changes to the Code of Ethics. The changes have been approved by the State Ethics Commission and will be submitted to the County Council in the next legislative session.

The Board was provided the ethics advice table for October, which summarized the informal ethics advice, information requests and legal advice provided by the Office of Ethics and Accountability.

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

At 5:10 pm, a motion was made by Board Chair Covette Rooney and seconded by Board Member Cassandra Burckhalter to close the open portion of the meeting to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosure 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 4-0. The reason for closing the meeting, and the topics discussed with legal counsel involved among other matters, investigations 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)

Sharon Theodore-Lewis, Board Member (teleconference)

Robin Barnes-Shell, Esq., Executive Director

Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer

LaShanda Whaley, Legal Counsel

Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide

CLOSED SESSION

Board Referral 19-0063e

The Board was provided an update on the investigation of Misuse of County Resources by a County employee. The Board voted 4-0 that there is reasonable basis to believe a violation of the Prince George’s County Code has occurred and in lieu of holding a hearing on the matter the Board accepts the actions taken by the Council Administrator as appropriate to address the violation.

Board Referral 18-0400e

The Board was provided a report on a complaint involving the allegation of Misuse of Prestige of Office by a County employee. The Board voted 4-0 that there are insufficient facts upon which to base a determination of a violation and dismissed the complaint.

Board Referral 19-0105e

The Board was provided a report on a complaint involving the allegation of Misuse of Prestige of Office by a County employee. The Board voted 4-0 that there are insufficient facts upon which to base a determination of a violation and dismissed the complaint.

At the conclusion of all business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:43 pm.