

**Frederick County Ethics Commission**  
**Minutes for the Public Meeting of Thursday, June 29, 2006**

Present: G. Anthony Crook, Chairman  
Phillip P. Killam, Commission Member  
Ronald W. Peppe, Alternate Commission Member  
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: Andrew T. Jones, Commission Member

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:30 p.m. on June 29, 2006, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

**MOTION:** Mr. Killam made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

**Approval of the minutes** – The Commission considered the minutes from its April 11, 2006, meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Killam made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Standard Operating Procedures** – The Commission discussed the proposed revisions to the Commission's Standard Operating Procedures.

**MOTION:** Mr. Killam made a motion to approve the revised Standard Operating Procedures. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Commission members in attendance signed the Standard Operating Procedures. The Commission directed that the revised procedures and the summary of changes be added to the Commission's website once the procedures have been fully signed and that the old procedures be removed from the website.

**Advisory Opinion 06-02** – The Commission asked that a copy of this Advisory Opinion be placed in the next employee newsletter and that copies be sent directly to County Division Directors.

**State Ethics Commission issues** – The Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission members that a response was received from Robert Hahn, General Counsel for the State Ethics Commission, regarding the Commission's proposal for a statewide local ethics law. The response indicated that the proposal would be presented at the State Ethics Commission's

meeting on June 29, 2006. Mr. Crook stated that the State Ethics Commission expressed a willingness to have someone come to Frederick County to meet with Commission members to provide training, if requested. The Commission members took the position that Statewide training would be preferable to ensure consistency between jurisdictions.

### **New Business**

**Financial disclosure statements** – The Commission members were advised that the annual financial disclosure statements were to be sent to County officials and employees on June 30. The Assistant County Attorney provided an update on the effort to allow electronic filing of disclosure statements. Technical issues preclude electronic filing at this time, but staff will continue to explore ways of implementing this by June 2007. The Commission members reviewed and discussed the financial disclosure forms received to date from candidates for the Board of County Commissioners. One of the candidates failed to answer one of the questions on the disclosure form. The Assistant County Attorney was directed to contact the candidate and obtain an updated response. One question on the form used by the candidates will need to be revised to clarify that it pertains to interests in businesses that do business *in* Frederick County (not to those that do business *with* Frederick County). Once revised, the form will be provided to the Elections Board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peppe moved to have copies of Advisory Opinion 06-02 sent to all of the candidates for the Board of County Commissioners, with a transmittal letter to be signed by the Assistant County Attorney. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Discussion of Lennon decision** – The Assistant County Attorney responded to Commissioner questions about the 1998 Court of Special Appeals decision in the case of *Carroll County Ethics Commission v. Lennon*.

**County Boards and Commissions** – The Commission discussed the applicability of the Ethics Ordinance to members of County Boards and Commissions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peppe moved to have copies of Advisory Opinion 06-02 sent to all Board and Commission members who are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Recognition of Mr. Killam** – The Commission presented a plaque to Mr. Killam in recognition of his service on the Ethics Commission. Mr. Killam's term as a member of the Commission expires on June 30, 2006.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Mr. Killam moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:10 p.m.

/s/

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Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney