

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, November 22, 2004

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

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at approximately 7:00 p.m. on November 22, 2004, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 3rd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

MOTION: Mr. Crook made a motion to open the public meeting and to start the meeting by having a discussion with Sheriff James Hagy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Killam and was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

Pending investigation – The Commission met with Sheriff Hagy regarding the provision of security services at an event held in Frederick County this year. The Sheriff discussed the scope of the services requested and provided and the cost of those services. At the conclusion of the discussion, Sheriff Hagy left the meeting. The Commission members then discussed the information gathered during its inquiry into the complaint, the conclusions that could be drawn from the information obtained, and whether it was necessary to meet with any other individuals before issuing an opinion.

MOTION: Mr. Killam moved to have the Commission determine that a meeting with the subject of the complaint was not necessary on the basis that the Commission already has sufficient evidence to allow it to reach a decision. Mr. Killam's motion included a request to proceed with the preparation of an opinion. The motion was not seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Killam then moved to have the Commission send a letter to the subject of the complaint to let him know that the Commission met on November 22, 2004, and to advise him that the Commission did not believe that there was a need for a public meeting. The letter should advise the subject of the complaint that the Ethics Commission would only schedule a meeting with him if he requested one. Mr. Crook seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its October 4, 2004, meeting.

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

New Business

Request for a meeting – The Commission discussed a County employee's request to meet with the Ethics Commission to discuss a recent advisory opinion. The Assistant County Attorney distributed documents provided by the employee. The Assistant County Attorney also distributed a written summary of the documents, along with a summary of relevant opinions of the State Ethics Commission. The Commission decided to schedule the meeting with the employee for November 30, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

Index to advisory opinions – Mr. Jones suggested that an index to the advisory opinions found on the Commission's web site would be useful. The Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission that an index would be prepared.

Discussion of Commission goals – The Commission members discussed the need for timeliness when responding to matters before the Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Crook moved to have the Commission adopt a goal of having all complaints addressed in a timely manner. The specific goal would be to have at least a draft response prepared within sixty days of receipt of a complaint. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

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

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:00 p.m.

/s/

Linda B. Thall, Assistant County Attorney