

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, March 24, 2008

Present: Andrew T. Jones, Chairman
Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member
Paula C. Bell, Commission Member
E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 8:45 p.m. on March 24, 2008, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Unfinished Business

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its January 23, 2008, meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

2007 financial disclosure forms – The Commission members discussed the status of their review of the financial disclosure forms for 2007. The members agreed to individually notify the Senior Assistant County Attorney when their review of these financial disclosure forms is completed. The 2007 forms must be approved before the 2008 financial disclosure forms can be distributed.

New Business

Request for guidance from a County employee – The Commission members discussed a request received from a County employee. The employee wishes to engage in secondary employment and asked the Commission whether the secondary employment is permitted under the Ethics Ordinance's conflict of interest provisions.

MOTION: Mr. Bickel moved to direct the Senior Assistant County Attorney to contact the employee by e-mail and advise the employee that the Ethics Commission approved the secondary employment as not in violation of the Ethics Ordinance.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Bickel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its public meeting at 9:45 p.m.

/s/

Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Notice under Section 10-503(c) of the State Government Article of the Maryland Annotated Code:

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at approximately 7:25 p.m. on February 20, 2008, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701, to perform an administrative function. The persons in attendance at this meeting were Andrew T. Jones, Chairman; Alternate Commission Member E. Donald Foster; and Senior Assistant County Attorney Linda B. Thall. The subjects discussed at the administrative function meeting were (1) a decision on a request for an Advisory Opinion received from a County employee regarding secondary employment, (2) a discussion related to the investigation and processing of a complaint received against a County official, and (3) a discussion related to the processing of an allegation of a conflict of interest on the part of a member of a County board or commission and a request for guidance received from the member.

The Frederick County Ethics Commission also met at approximately 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 2008, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701, to perform an administrative function. The persons in attendance at this meeting were Andrew T. Jones, Chairman; Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member; Paula C. Bell, Commission Member; Alternate Commission Member E. Donald Foster; and Senior Assistant County Attorney Linda B. Thall. Also in attendance at the meeting were a member of the Board of County Commissioners, who was the subject of a complaint filed with the Ethics Commission, and Eric Soter, Director of the County's Planning Division. The subject of the administrative function meeting was the complaint against the County Commissioner. Both the Commissioner and Mr. Soter appeared at the request of the Ethics Commission to provide information related to the subject matter of the complaint.

Upon the conclusion of the above March 24, 2008, administrative function meeting, the Ethics Commission held a second administrative function meeting. The persons in attendance at this meeting were Andrew T. Jones, Chairman; Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member; Paula C. Bell, Commission Member; Alternate Commission Member E. Donald Foster; and Senior Assistant County Attorney Linda B. Thall. A member of the County's Planning Commission and her attorney, Jennifer Forrence, were also in attendance at this meeting. The subject of the administrative function meeting was a request for guidance made by the Planning Commission member after receipt of an allegation that the member had violated the County's Ethics Ordinance.