

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, May 7, 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 7:00 p.m. on May 7, 2008, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

New Business

Reappointment of Andrew Jones – The Commission considered the application made by Mr. Jones for appointment to a new term. Prior to the discussion, Mr. Jones suggested that he not be present in the room for this item, but the other members present took the position that he could stay in the room.

MOTION: Mr. Foster made a motion to have the Commission support the reappointment of Mr. Jones. As part of the motion, the Commission directed the Senior Assistant County Attorney to send an e-mail message to Administrative Officer Joyce Grossnickle noting the Commission's vote on this matter and expressing support for the reappointment. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by Mr. Foster and Ms. Bell, with Mr. Jones abstaining. (Mr. Bickel arrived after the vote was taken and discussion of this item had been completed.)

Unfinished Business

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its March 24, 2008, meeting.

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

2007 financial disclosure forms – The Senior Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission members that all financial disclosure forms for 2007 have now been approved.

New Business

Revision of Advisory Opinion 06-02 – The Commission decided to revise Advisory Opinion 06-02, which provides general information to employees, officials, and members of boards and commissions about the Ethics Ordinance. The Commission will revise the opinion to reflect

the amendment of the Ethics Ordinance's conflict of interest provision pertaining to the acceptance of gifts of tickets or free admission and to reword the introduction. The Commission expressed interest in reviewing this opinion on an annual basis.

Lobbyist Activity Reports – The Senior Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission that registered lobbyists were sent notices reminding them of the July 31, 2008, filing deadline for Lobbying Activity Reports.

Public Ethics Law – The Commission noted that the Lobbying Ordinance requires the County Manager to prepare a summary report at least twice a year. The last report was issued on November 21, 2007. The Commission asked that staff from the County Manager's Office be invited to meet with the Commission to discuss plans for the next report.

Administrative function meeting – The Commission completed the public portion of its meeting and then met to perform administrative functions, as noted below.

Adjournment

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

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:00 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 7:45 p.m. on May 7, 2008, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701, to perform administrative functions. The persons in attendance at this meeting were Andrew T. Jones, Chairman; Commission members Karl W. Bickel and Paula C. Bell; 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 pending request from a member of the Board of County Commissioners for an investigation related to claims made in connection with a legislative proposal for solid waste franchises, (2) a complaint received regarding a potential conflict of interest in connection with decisions made regarding the allocation of funds from a housing fund that assists low-income housing providers, and (3) a pending complaint regarding a potential conflict of interest on the part of a member of the Board of County Commissioners.