

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Present: Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member
 Paula C. Bell, Commission Member
 Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: Andrew T. Jones, Chairman
 E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2009, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the revised minutes from its March 11, 2009 meeting. A draft of the minutes had been circulated before the meeting and a revised draft was prepared to amend the minutes as suggested by Ms. Bell. The Commission requested that the minutes be further revised to reflect a request made with regard to a pending complaint. Mr. Bickel asked that a letter be prepared for the Chairman's signature seeking a voluntary suspension of enforcement activities by two County Divisions while a related complaint pending before the Commission is under investigation.

MOTION: Mr. Bickel made a motion to approve the minutes as revised, including the direction given at the meeting. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Meeting with County employees to discuss a pending complaint – As part of its investigation into the complaint made at the March 11, 2009, meeting, the members of the Commission met separately with four employees having knowledge of matters related to the complaint. After the employees left the meeting, the Commission discussed the information provided to date. The Commission was advised that two additional employees were scheduled to meet with the Commission at its next meeting on April 13, 2009.

Discussion of a new complaint received – Prior to the meeting, a complaint made by a County resident against an appointed member of a County Committee alleging improper conduct by the Committee member was forwarded to the Ethics Commission. The members agreed that the Commission could make a decision on the complaint without meeting with the complainant. Further action, however, was deferred until the Commission's next meeting.

Advisory Opinion 09-01 – Advisory Opinion 08-03 was revised in light of recent amendments to the Ethics Ordinance's financial disclosure filing requirements. The

revised Advisory Opinion is now numbered 09-01. This Advisory Opinion was circulated to the Commission members before the meeting. The members of the Commission who were in attendance at the meeting signed the Advisory Opinion.

Discussion of the draft Public Ethics Law Report – A draft of the Public Ethics Law Report was emailed to the Commission members before the meeting. The Commission approved the draft report and directed staff to prepare the final report for signature.

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 9:30 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney