

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, April 13, 2009

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 April 13, 2009, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Meeting with County employees and discussion of a pending complaint – As part of its investigation into the complaint made at the March 11, 2009, meeting, the Commission members met separately with two employees having knowledge of matters related to the complaint. After the meeting with the employees, the Commission discussed the information provided as it related to possible violation of the Ethics Ordinance. The Commission directed the Senior Assistant County Attorney to prepare a draft Opinion finding that a County employee had violated Section 1-7.1-4(A) and (H) of the Ethics Ordinance.

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its April 8, 2009 meeting.

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

Discussion of a complaint received about a member of a County Committee – Prior to the meeting, a complaint was made by a County resident against an appointed member of a County Committee alleging improper conduct by the Committee member. The Commission determined at its April 8, 2009, meeting that it could decide the complaint without meeting with the complainant. After discussing the nature of the complaint, the Commission directed the Senior Assistant County Attorney to draft an Advisory Opinion finding that the complaint did not identify any conduct that would constitute a violation of the Ethics Ordinance and that the Commission lacked the power to remove the Committee member from his appointed position.

Advisory Opinion 09-01 – This Advisory Opinion was circulated to the Commission members before the meeting and Mr. Bickel and Ms. Bell signed the Advisory Opinion at the last meeting on April 8. Mr. Jones and Mr. Foster signed the Advisory Opinion.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Foster 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