

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD OF ETHICS**

Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2019

Present: Covette Rooney, Board Member (teleconference)
Curtis Eugene, Board Member (teleconference)
Sharon Theodore-Lewis, Board Member (teleconference)

Robin Barnes-Shell, Esq., Executive Director
Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer
LaShanda Whaley, Legal Counsel (teleconference)
Lamont Judd, Investigator
Jasmine Carter, Compliance Analyst
Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide

Next meeting: November 15, 2019 at 5:00 pm
9201 Basil Court, Suite 155
Largo, Maryland 20774

OPEN SESSION

I. OPENING OF MEETING

The Board Member, Covette Rooney, opened the meeting at approximately 5:10 pm and welcomed all in attendance. There was a quorum present with three (3) Board Members. The meeting was held at the Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) located at 9201 Basil Court, Suite 155, Largo, Maryland.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Board Chair Cassandra Burckhalter was not in attendance at the present meeting, so the Board deferred adopting the September 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

None to report.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Executive Director informed the Board of OEA's collection efforts for Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) for calendar year 2018. The Board was informed of OEA's Financial Disclosure Statements audits of Schedules A, E, and H. There were a total of

one hundred six (106) audit letters to County employees, and forty three (43) are outstanding. The Board was informed of OEA's Financial Disclosure Statement of six (6) board members in noncompliance and fourteen (14) with outstanding late fees. The Board voted 3-0 to request the removal of board members that have outstanding fees and in noncompliance.

The Executive Director provided the Board information regarding OEA's training efforts that included conducting two (2) New Employees Orientation Program trainings and one (1) monthly Ethics Training (PGCEthics). The Board was informed that two hundred sixty-five (265) new County employees were required to take the Ethics Training and seventy-one (71) are noncompliant. In addition, fifty (50) lobbyists have registered for calendar year 2019.

The Board was provided the ethics advice table for September, which summarized the informal ethics advice, information requests and legal advice provided by the Office of Ethics and Accountability.

The Board was updated on the status of legislative amendments that are pending before the County Council required pursuant to State Ethics Law changes.

V. Reading of Written Statement for Closing Meeting Under the Open Meeting Act

At 5:33 pm, a motion was made by Board Member Covette Rooney and seconded by Board Member Sharon Theodore-Lewis to close the open portion of the meeting to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter and to consult with legal counsel. The statement was read by Board Member Covette Rooney. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0. The reason for closing the meeting and the topics discussed with legal counsel involved, among other matters, investigations in accordance with the State Government Article, §10-508(a). Those in attendance were as follows:

Covette Rooney, Board Member (teleconference)

Curtis Eugene, Board Member (teleconference)

Sharon Theodore-Lewis, Board Member (teleconference)

Robin Barnes-Shell, Esq., Executive Director

Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer

LaShanda Whaley, Legal Counsel (teleconference)

Lamont Judd, Investigator

Jasmine Carter, Compliance Analyst

Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide

CLOSED SESSION

Investigation 19-0157e

The Board was provided an update of the personnel actions initiated against the respondent by the impacted agency. As a result, the respondent resigned from their position with the County.

Investigation 20-0122e

The Board was notified of an investigation involving allegations of solicitation of County agencies.

Investigation 19-0276e

The Board was provided a report on an investigation involving an allegation of Prestige of Office by a County employee approving County event. The Board voted 3-0 that there are insufficient facts upon which to base a determination of a violation and dismissed the complaint

Investigation 19-0355e

The Board was provided a report on an investigation involving an allegation of Use of County Resources by a County employee abusing County time. The Board voted 3-0 there is a reasonable basis to believe a violation of the Prince George's County Code of Ethics has occurred. The Board will reserve taking further action for thirty (30) days to allow the agency to respond to the identified ethics violations.

The Board was provided updates on pending cases.

At the conclusion of all business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:53 pm.