

**Howard County Ethics Commission  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Ethics Commission was held on January 25, 2022 via Webex.

**Commission Members Present:** Joanne Drielak, Chair  
Jonathan Kromm, Vice Chair  
Charles Fuller  
Joseph Markwordt  
Jean Xu

**Staff Members Present:** Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Executive Secretary to the Commission

Chairperson Drielak called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m. The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Agenda: The Commission reviewed and approved the proposed Agenda upon a motion by Kromm, seconded by Xu, passed unanimously.
2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on November 4, 2021 and upon a motion by Kromm, seconded by Fuller, the minutes passed unanimously.
3. Attorney Perry discussed with the Commission updates from the State Ethics Commission and updated them regarding 2021 Disclosure Statements.
4. Motion by Markwordt to adjourn Open Meeting, go into Closed Meeting and adjourn Open Meeting, which was seconded by Kromm and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:08 p.m.

**Closed Meeting:** Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: January 25, 2022

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:19 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice regarding Advisory Opinion 2022-01 and 2022-02, and approval of Closed Meeting minutes from November 4, 2021 meeting.

Authority to Close: (1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; (2) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(13): To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and (3) To comply with the Commission's Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, "the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request."

Listing of topics discussed: Advisory Opinions 2022-01 and 2022-02: The Commission discussed legal issues related to same and listened to presentations made by requestor.

Persons present: Attorney Perry; Members: Drielak, Kromm Fuller, Markwordt and Xu.

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel and gave directions for final opinions.

Upon motion by Kromm, and seconded by Markwordt, the Commission voted to adjourn the Closed Meeting at approximately 7:57 pm.



Kristen Bowen Perry  
Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 3/15/2022