

BOARD OF ETHICS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY	:	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION AND ORDER
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COMPLAINANT	:	CASE NO. 21-0395
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V	:	
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MONIQUE ANDERSON-WALKER COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 8	:	
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	:	
RESPONDENT	:	
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This case came before the Board of Ethics for Prince George's County, Maryland (Board), in a closed hearing on the 7th and 8th day of June 2021 via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Based upon all evidence, both real and testimonial, and reasonable inferences to be drawn therefrom, and in consideration of the sworn testimony of Prince George's County Maryland, District 8 Councilmember Monique Anderson-Walker, Robert J. Williams, Prince George's County Council Administrator and Colette R. Gresham, Prince George's County Council Staff Attorney and exhibits presented, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. **FOUND** this proceeding was held pursuant to Ethics Code 2-292(i) because there was a reasonable basis for believing a violation had occurred or may possibly be

occurring, and as a result the Respondent, a member of the Prince George's County Council, was afforded an opportunity for a hearing conducted in accordance with the Board's applicable rules of procedure for actions taken on the record.

2. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker is the principal broker of Fleur De Lis, LLC., a commercial real estate advisory services business located in Oxon Hill, Maryland, in Prince George's County, Maryland.
3. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker worked as a broker for the White Rose Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of the Prince George's County, Maryland chapter of the Links, Incorporated, between the years of 2018 to 2020; however, at the time of the hearing, she was no longer the broker for the White Rose Foundation.
4. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker voted on the following Resolutions:
 - a. Resolution CR-83-2019 and recommended the White Rose Foundation receive \$350,000.00 for a Suitland location;
 - b. Resolution CR-46-2020 and recommended the White Rose Foundation receive \$405,748.00 in funding;
 - c. Resolution CR-56-2019 approving the terms and conditions of Payments in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between Prince George's County, Maryland and Suitland Seniors, LLC, concerning the Suitland Senior Residences at Town Square projectⁱ.
5. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker did not recuse herself from voting on Resolution CR-83-2019, Resolution CR-46-2020, and Resolution CR-56-2019.
6. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker did not file an Affidavit of Impartiality pursuant to Section 2-293.01 of the Ethics Code.

7. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker gave sponsorship funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the White Rose Foundation which was serving as a pass-through organization for The Links, Incorporated.
8. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker is employing a current staff member, Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford from her broker business, Fleur De Lis, LLC., in her County Council Office.
9. **FOUND** Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford is an independent Contractor with Fleur De Lis, LLC., and is not salaried, but receives payment on real estate transactions she closes with Fleur De Lis, LLC.
10. **FOUND** as Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford's supervisor, Councilmember Walker approved the secondary employment request submitted by Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford to work with Fleur De Lis, LLC.
11. **FOUND** that Councilmember Walker's business Fleur De Lis, LLC, receives a financial benefit when Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford closes on a deal.
12. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker did not consult with the Board of Ethics regarding the permissibility to engage in secondary employment work as a broker with a business entity doing business with the County.
13. **FOUND** Councilmember Walker continues to participate in matters that comes before the County Council in which she has a financial interest.

CONCLUSION and ORDER WHEREFORE, the Board of Ethics

1. **FINDS** pursuant to Ethics Code 2-292(i), a closed hearing was held on June 7, 2021 and June 8, 2021 by the Board of Ethics because there was a reasonable basis for believing a violation had occurred, or may possibly be occurring, and as a result the Respondent,

was afforded an opportunity for a hearing conducted in accordance with the Board's applicable rules of procedure for actions taken on the record.

2. **FINDS** that Councilmember Walker is not in compliance with the provisions of Ethics Code Section 2-293(a) and (b) for the following reasons herein:
 - a. Voting on resolutions involving the White Rose Foundation which she represented as a broker;
 - b. Employing a current staff member, Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford from her brokerage business in her County Council Office; and
 - c. Continuing to participate in matters that comes before the County Council in which she has a financial interest.
3. **FINDS** that Councilmember Walker did not violate the Code of Ethics when she gave a \$5,000.00 sponsorship to the White Rose Foundation, which was a pass-through to The Links, Incorporated.

ORDERS pursuant to Ethics Code Section 2-297(b) that Councilmember Walker cease participating in any matter where a business entity in which she has an employment interest or direct financial interest, is a party to the matter; and

ORDERS pursuant to Ethics Code Section 2-297(b) that Councilmember Walker cease the business relationship with her staff member, Ms. Regina Anderson-Ford, who is also contracting with Fleur De Lis, LLC; and

ORDERS pursuant to Ethics Code Section 2-297(b) that Councilmember Walker cease the operation of the broker activities with entities doing business with or in Prince George's County, Maryland.

The actions and behavior of Councilmember Walker have caused an erosion of public trust in County Government. Failure to comply with this order will result in the Board of Ethics moving forward with additional actions under Section 2-297(b) of the Ethics Code.

Either party, aggrieved by or contesting the Board of Ethic's Orders, whether such decision is affirmative or negative in form, reserves the right to appeal that order to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland within fifteen (15) business days from the date of this Findings of Facts, Conclusion, and Order. The provisions of the Maryland Rules pertaining to administrative appeals shall govern such an appeal. The decision of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in all appeals of the Board of Ethics shall be final.

Board of Ethics
Prince George's County, Maryland
Cassandra Burckhalter, Chairman

Prepared by:

Administrator, Chelinda V. Bullock
Office of Ethics and Accountability

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this ____ day of _____, a copy of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Order was mailed by regular mail to the following parties:

Monique Anderson-Walker, Council Member District 8
Prince George's County Council
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
County Council, 2nd Floor
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Chelinda V. Bullock, Administrator
Office of Ethics and Accountability
9201 Basil Court, Suite 155
Largo, Maryland 20774

ⁱ The White Rose Foundation contributed to the financing of the acquisition of the Property and construction and equipping of the Project by providing a capitalized lease payment.