

# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT BOARD OF ETHICS

Tara H. Jackson Acting County Executive

Todd M. Turner Executive Director Charlene Gallion, Member Melanie Barr-Brooks, Member Kara Hunt, Member Jasons Papanikolas, Member

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS Board Meeting Minutes April 9, 2025

Present: Charlene Gallion, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)

Melanie Barr-Brooks, Board Member (Microsoft Teams) Jason Papanikolas, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)

Todd M. Turner, Executive Director (Microsoft Teams) Bamidele Alexander, Legal Counsel (Microsoft Teams) Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer (Microsoft Teams) Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide (Microsoft Teams)

Garry Bourke, Investigator (Microsoft Teams)

Absent: Kara Hunt, Board Member

#### **OPEN SESSION**

## I. OPENING OF MEETING

The Board Chair Melanie Barr-Brooks opened the Board of Ethics ("Board") meeting at approximately 5:06 pm and welcomed all in attendance. There was a quorum present with three (3) Board of Ethics Members ("Board Members") present at the start. The meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams.

## II. GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Agenda for April 9, 2025, was approved, by a vote of 3-0.

The Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2025, was approved, by a vote of 3-0.

## III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

The Chair welcomed the new board member in attendance.

# IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Executive Director (ED) informed the Board of the following Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) compliance activities:

- OEA would like to thank the Board and OEA staff for attending the Board Recognition Event for Sharon Theodore-Lewis.
- OEA continues the CY 2024 Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) Agency/ Board/Commission compliance process and notifications to County Employees/Officials, and Board Members.
- OEA will disseminate one (1) more Public Service Announcement (PSA) to County officials/employees regarding CY2024 Financial Disclosure Statements.
- The March 2025 Lobbyist registrations were posted to OEA's website, provided to the Executive and Legislative Branches, and in Board backup.
- The Board was notified the 2025 Lobbyist's Annual registration process is underway; and all 2024 Annual Reports are due January 31, 2025, with forty-four (44) late fee waiver requests or payments to date.

The Executive Director informed the Board of the following items:

- The Board was notified that OEA held an Ethics Training on April 7, 2025, with the Prince George's County Police Department.
- The Board was advised the 2014 Executive Order No. 13-2014 regarding FDS required filers was approved by the Acting Chief Administrative Officer (ACAO).
- The Board was advised of proposed County Council ethics legislation submitted to the State Ethics Commission for review.
- The Board was advised the Board Resolution 2025-1 was adopted and posted to the Board's page of the OEA website.
- The Board was advised that the vacant Compliance Analyst Position was approved to post and closed.
- The Board was advised that the FY2026 Proposed Budget Council Committee meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2025.

Finally, the Board was provided the Ethics Advice Table for April 2025, which summarized the informal ethics advice, information requests, and legal advice provided by OEA. Also, the Board was provided with a Case Status Report.

# V. READING OF WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING MEETING UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

At 5:23 pm, a motion was made by Board Member Charlene Gallion and seconded by Board Member Jason Papanikolas 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 Chair Barr-Brooks.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0. This meeting was closed under General Provisions Art. §3-305(b) for the following reasons: (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business, (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Charlene Gallion, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)
Melanie Barr-Brooks, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)
Jason Papanikolas, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)

Todd M. Turner, Executive Director (Microsoft Teams)
Bamidele Alexander, Legal Counsel (Microsoft Teams)
Roslyn Walker, Compliance Officer (Microsoft Teams)
Chelinda Bullock, Administrative Aide (Microsoft Teams)
Garry Bourke, Investigator (Microsoft Teams)

Matthew Bohrer, Associate County Attorney, OOL (Microsoft Teams @ 5:34pm)

## VI. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was informed there were no FDS Waivers and Late Payments, FDS Violations, and FDS Settlement Agreements.

# **Formal Advisory Opinions:**

# OEA Case #25-0278e

The Board was provided an update of a Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) exemption request by a County employee regarding the annual filing of FDS. By a vote of 3-0, and one (1) abstention, the Board approved, and the redacted Formal Advisory will posted.

# **Lobbyists Waiver Requests**

The Board was provided an update chart of the Lobbyists Late Fee Waivers and OEA will continue to follow-up.

# **Board Referrals:**

#### OEA Case #25-0255e

The Board was provided with an update involving allegations of Use of Prestige of Office & County Resources of a County employee engaging in political activity and inappropriate use of County resources. By a vote of 3-0, the Board found there are insufficient facts upon which to base a determination of a violation and dismiss the complaint.

# Response to Recommendations:

### OEA Case #25-0159e

The Board was provided with an update on the investigation involving allegations of a County police officer engaged in political activity in violation of the Code of Ethics by appearing in a political ad. By a vote of 3-0, the Board found there is a reasonable basis to believe a violation has occurred in lieu of conducting a hearing, the Board accepts the actions taken by the agency as appropriate to address the violation.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of all business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:48pm. The motion was approved 3-0.

The next meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm.