

# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT **BOARD OF ETHICS**

Tara 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** June 18, 2025

Present: Kara Hunt, Board Member (Microsoft Teams) Melanie

Barr-Brooks, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)

Jason Papanikolas, Board Member (Microsoft Teams)

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

Garry Bourke, Investigator (Microsoft Teams)

Absent: Charlene Gallion, Board Member

Bamidele Alexander, Legal Counsel

#### **OPEN SESSION**

#### I. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Board Chair Melanie Barr-Brooks opened the Board of Ethics ("Board") meeting at approximately 5:04 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.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS II.

The Agenda for June 18, 2025, was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2025, was approved by a vote of 3-0, with noted edits.

#### III. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

None.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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

- OEA continues the CY 2024 Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) Agency/ Board/Commission compliance process and notifications to County Employees/Officials, and Board Members. FDS waivers were requested, and settlement meetings will be scheduled during the summer and brought to the Board in September 2025.
- The May 2025 Lobbyist registrations were posted to OEA's website, provided to the Executive and Legislative Branches, and in Board backup.

The Executive Director informed the Board of the following items:

- The Board was notified that OEA will hold an Ethics Training in July 2025 with the new County Executive Administration.
- The Board was notified that OEA participated in a community outreach event on May 20, 2025, at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden for a Career and Opportunity Fair.
- The Board was notified that OEA will be attending the National Night Out on August 5, 2025, and that the Bowiefest on June 7, 2025, was cancelled due to weather.
- The Board was advised that the County Council legislation regarding proposed amendments to the County Code of Ethics was reviewed, but not presented to the County Council.
- The Board was advised County Council submitted CB-36-2025 to the State Ethics Commission for review.
- The Board was advised that the Compliance Analyst Position vacancy process was completed, and a final decision will be made by the end of June 2025.
- The Board was advised that the FY2026 Proposed Budget was approved on May 29, 2025.
- The Board was advised that the transition of the new County Executive will be on June 18, 2025, and the newly appointed County Executive will be sworn in on June 19, 2025.

Finally, the Board was provided the Ethics Advice Table for April and May 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 5:19 pm, a motion was made by Board Chair Melanie Barr-Brooks and seconded by Board Member Kara Hunt 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:

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

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

#### VI. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was informed there were no FDS Violations and FDS Settlement Agreements.

The Board was provided a chart of the FDS Late Fee and Waivers, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board granted all waiver requests.

# **Formal Advisory Opinions:**

#### **OEA Case #25-0378e**

The Board was provided a drafted letter on a Conflict of Interest regarding application of the Prince George's County Code of Ethics' conflict of interest provisions whether employees who hold advanced and/or professional degrees or experience, can use their County title and position to be recognized for research and work performed in their County capacity in professional publications as part of their professional development or continuing education requirements. By a vote of 3-0, the Board approved, and the redacted version of the Formal Advisory Opinion will be posted on OEA's website

# **Lobbyists Waiver Requests**

The Board was provided an updated chart of the Lobbyists' Late Fee Payments, and OEA will continue to follow up, if needed.

## **Litigation Update:**

### **OEA Case #24-307e**

The Board was provided with an update involving allegations of a Conflict of Interest Secondary Employment related to a County employee.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of all business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm. The motion was approved 3-0.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:00 pm.