

FY 2026 OEA Annual Report Highlighted Recommendations & Cases

#	Case No.	Case Details	Recommendation(s)	Date Issued
1.	N/A	N/A	Proposed State Ethics Code clarifying legislation for State Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) filing requirements with the County Board of Ethics/OEA in Prince George's County for Bi-County Commissions (M-NCPPC, WSSC, and WSTC)(Gen. Prov. Art. §§5-602, 5-822 — 5-832) (2023 Recommendation).	Completed
2.	N/A	N/A	Proposed County Ethics Code §2-294(b) clarifying legislation for Bi-County Commissions (M-NCPPC, WSSC, and WSTC) to provide their State Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) to the County Board of Ethics/OEA. (Continuation of 2023 Recommendation).	Pending
3.	26-0608	Case Type: Conflict of Interest/Use of County Resources Agency/Board/Commission: County Council Subject: Allegation that a County Official misused public funding in the production and mailing of promotional materials for a religious event. Disposition: Unsubstantiated	1. The County Council Administration, consulting with the Office of Law, should create a policy that governs the issue of supporting religious activities using County funding and grant funding to avoid separation of state and religion issues. 2. Appropriate Council staff should also be required to complete training on the newly created policy.	10/25

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#	Case No.	Case Details	Recommendation(s)	Date Issued
4.	25-0424 & 26-0069	Case Type: FWAI/Conflict of Interest Agency/Board/Commission: Fire/EMS Department Subject: Allegations of financial irregularities that were overseen, allowed, and assisted by Fire/EMS officials, regarding the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department Station (Station 851) and potential conflict of interest with the vendor. Disposition: Partially Substantiated	1. The Office of Central Services (OCS) and the Office of Procurement (OOP) amend their emergency procedures to secure multiple potential vendors to bid for emergency building repairs, especially related to PGFD projects.	1/26
5.	26-0112	Case Type: Use of County Resources/ FWAI Agency/Board/Commission: Office of the County Executive Subject: Allegation that the 100 Days Boots on the Ground Family Picnic was a waste and an abuse of County position. Disposition: Unsubstantiated	1. OEA cautioned, given the potential appearance of political promotion and gain, that the Office of the County Executive consult with OEA before hosting similar events to address any potential future issues. 2. The County should also be cognizant of the use of public funds for all public events, given the ongoing County fiscal situation and that they directly benefit the County's programs and its citizens.	1/26

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6.	26-0156	Case Type: FWAI Agency/Board/Commission: Fire/EMS Department Subject: Allegation that equipment was thrown out in a dumpster at a County Fire Station. Disposition: Unsubstantiated	1. PGFD mandate that all County Fire Stations conduct a regular full inventory of all County property to make sure all property records are up to date. 2. PGFD updates General Order #03-07 to provide specific guidelines for the equipment inventory and disposal of all County property, including property with no asset tags.	2/26
7.	26-0191 & 26-0196	Case Type: FWAI/Conflict of Interest Agency/B/C: County Council Subject: Allegation that the At-Large Council Member vacancy selection process raised concerns about conflicts of interest and the erosion of public trust. Disposition: Unsubstantiated	1. Given the importance of the appointment of County Council Members under both the County Charter and Code, the Council should be cognizant of the appropriate public notice and deliberative process contemplated under the County Charter, County Code, and the Council Rules of Procedure.	2/26

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8.	26-0220	Case Type: Conflict of Interest/Political Activity/Use of County Resources Agency/B/C: Revenue Authority Subject: Allegation that a County official is engaging in political activity for a campaign that causes a conflict of interest. Disposition: Unsubstantiated	1. Caution, given the potential appearance of political promotion or gain and public confusion, that the official separate their social media pages involving their County position from their political position with the campaign and be clear in their public representation in which capacity she is acting. 2. Recommend that the official be reminded of the political activity restrictions under the Code of Ethics, specifically related to the fact that “an official, other than an elected official, or employee may not use public resources or the title of the official or employee to solicit a contribution as that term is defined in the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.” 3. Recommend that the official complete an approved Secondary Employment Request with OEA for the campaign position.	6/25
9.	26-0319	Case Type: Use of County Resources/ Prestige of Office Agency/Board/ Commission: County Council Subject: Allegation that an official used their prestige of office and County resources to produce an alleged campaign video, which included a reference to their spouse’s business, that was posted on the County Council’s Facebook page. Disposition: Partially Substantiated	1. The County Council, in conjunction with the Council Communications office, should agree that introductory videos should refrain from video footage and information that would be perceived as promoting a personal business of an official or a family member. Video footage of the official or their family members engaging in their personal business activities could give the appearance of a conflict of interest and should be avoided. 2. Pursuant to the County Council procedure, all videos produced by the Council Communication Office should be reviewed by the Council Administration for approval before posting on the Council’s social media platforms. 3. All videos produced by the Council Communication Office and approved by the Administration should include a disclaimer that it was solely the product of the Council.	6/25

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#	Case No.	Case Details	Recommendation(s)	Date Issued
10.	26-0358	Case Type: Operational Review Agency/Board/Commission: Board of Appeals Subject: Allegation that the Board of Appeals did not conduct a proper hearing regarding a variance application for a property located in the Landover section of the County. Disposition: Unsubstantiated	I. The Board of Appeals should update the board's website to include Meeting Minutes, Variance Decisions, and timely post Board actions.	6/25