



*Queen
Anne's
County*

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Tina Miles, Clerk
Lynn Knight, Attorney

The Ethics Commission

Stan Ruddle, Chairman
Kaarin Salisbury
Valerie G. Smith Hirsch
Jerry Jordan
Patricia J. Jamison
Gail Malle-Davis, Alternate member

Advisory Opinion from May 20, 2019

The Ethics Commission considered a request for an advisory opinion from a County employee. Based on the information provided, the County employee who has been elected as chairman for the QAC Council for Children and Youth on its face does not create a violation of the County Ethics Code, Conflicts of Interest Section 8-11. However, there may be circumstances that could arise, especially related to financial matters and the use of his position to influence activities, in which he would need to recuse himself.

Advisory Opinion 19-02

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Minutes – May 20, 2019

The Queen Anne's County Ethics Commission met at 5:30 p.m. on this date at the County Commissioners Office, The Liberty Building, 107 N. Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland. The members of the Commission present were:

Stan Ruddle, Chairman
Kaarin Salisbury
Valerie G. Smith Hirsch
Jerry Jordan
Patricia Jamison

Lynn Knight, Counsel to Commission and Tina Miles, Clerk to the Ethics Commission were present for the meeting. Ms. Gail Malle-Davis, Alternate member was unable to attend due to another commitment.

On a motion of Ms. Hirsch, seconded by Ms. Jamison, and made unanimous by the Commission members, the regular minutes from the meeting held on April 15, 2019 were signed and approved.

On a motion of Ms. Jamison, seconded by Ms. Salisbury, and made unanimous by the Commission members, the executive session minutes from the meeting held on April 15, 2019 were signed and approved.

The Ethics Commission members reviewed the draft 2018 Annual Report. After discussion and review, on a motion of Mr. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Hirsch, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft 2018 Annual Report with specified additions to the "Complaints" paragraph that Counsel would rewrite and circulate to members for a final review. The Clerk to Commission will circulate the 2018 Annual Report to the employees and the boards and commission members who file an annual financial disclosure form.

The Ethics Commission reviewed a request for an advisory opinion submitted by an employee with the Department of Emergency Services asking if his election as Chairman of a board would present a conflict of interest. After review and discussion, the Commission agreed that there would be no conflict of interest, but that circumstances might arise, especially related to financial matters or the use of his position to influence activities, in which the employee would need to recuse himself. On a motion of Ms.

Hirsch, seconded by Ms. Salisbury, the Commission voted unanimously to have Counsel send the employee a letter detailing this opinion.

The Ethics Commission members reviewed some financial disclosure forms. On a motion of Ms. Salisbury and seconded by Mr. Jordan, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the financial disclosure forms.

Clerk to the Ethics Commission advised the members that, based on her discussion with her supervisor, it would be better for the Commission to make a video with QACTV regarding ethics responsibilities, rather than having a table at the Wellness & Benefits Fair. The video could be forwarded to all county departments for the employees to view.


Ms. Campbell, Chairman of Ethics Matters, Inc. thanked the members for their service and great sense of humor at the meeting.

The next Ethics Commission meeting will be held at the County Commissioners Office, The Liberty Building, 107 N. Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland, on a date to be announced.



Stan Ruddle, Chairman

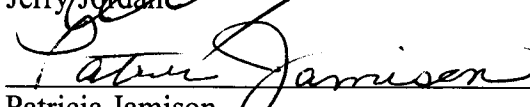
Kaarin Salibury



Valerie G. Smith-Hirsch



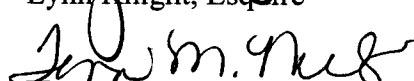
Jerry Jordan



Patricia Jamison



Lynn Knight, Esquire



Tina M. Miles, Clerk