

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 6, 2021  
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met via videoconference to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair  
Steven Hausman, Member  
Jeffrey Hysen, Member  
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member.

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer  
Russel Beers, Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant  
Charles Frederick, Associate General Counsel.

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – September 8, 2021**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the September Open Session Minutes.

**Matters of Discussion**

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for September 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to 18 new employees as part of the onboarding process. Dr. Hausman asked if that number of trainees is more than normal. Ms. Dorsey White responded that the average number of new hires for calendar year 2021 thus far has been 10 to 12 employees. Dr. Hausman also asked if the training has raised any unusual inquiries. Ms. Dorsey White replied that most inquiries are routine, and that the majority of questions are about completing financial disclosure forms. Dr. Hausman commended Ms. Dorsey White for conducting effective ethics training.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 9 matters, of which the leading category was Disclosure Statements.

**Informational Items**

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

Ms. Allen stated that there were no overdue financial disclosure filers to report.

**Introduction of New Associate Counsel**

Charles Frederick, Associate General Counsel arrived at 1:19 p.m.

Mr. Beers introduced Mr. Frederick as the newest Associate General Counsel and provided an overview of Mr. Frederick's legal experience. Mr. Beers stated that Mr. Frederick may attend next month's meeting due to Mr. Beers' absence.

**Closed Session Approval**

At 1:20 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve September 8, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address two Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding two Complaints, and Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations.

**Attendees:** Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. **Staff present:** Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen, Associate General Counsel Charles Frederick, and Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury. **Additional attendees:** Court Reporter Dawn Halcisak, Respondent in Complaint C-21-03, and Respondent's Counsel Michael Rowan.

**Closed Session**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – September 8, 2021**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting. Dr. Hausman and Chair Pruden commended Ms. Dorsey White for doing an excellent job at capturing the discussions and events that unfold during each meeting. Mr. Hysen commended Legal Office Manager Mary Clahane for

coordinating the acquisition of the Board's laptops. He asked that Ms. Clahane be made aware of the Board's appreciation for her assistance.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the September Closed Session Minutes.

**Complaint C-21-05**

Ms. Dorsey provided an update on this case.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this complaint pursuant to Code Ch. 1.70.080(d)(2).

**Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations**

There were no potential complaints / confidential legal investigations to discuss.

**Complaint C-21-03**

Court Reporter Dawn Halcisak joined the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

The Respondent and Respondent's Counsel Michael Rowan joined the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury joined the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

A hearing on this case began at 2:11 p.m. and ended at 3:05 p.m. Ms. Halcisak transcribed the hearing.

Chair Pruden, Ms. Slaughter, Ms. Halcisak, the Respondent, Mr. Rowan, and Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, two members of the Board (Hausman and Hysen) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.



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Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer