

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday October 12, 2022  
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 George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:07 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, Legal Counsel to the Board  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant  
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate General Counsel  
Larry Carr, Office of Inspector General Criminal Investigator.

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – September 14, 2022**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the September 14, 2022 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 2022. She reported that she provided ethics training to 13 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 30 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts. Dr. Hausman stated that with the approaching holidays employees need a reminder about acceptance of gifts and asked Ms. Dorsey White how she will communicate this. Ms. Dorsey White replied that it is the Spotlight topic that was tabled on the Commission meeting agenda since August 2022. However, due to the abbreviated Commission meetings she has not been able to present the topic. She stated that she will ask Communications if a company wide email can be sent to all employees.

Finally, Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Commissioners have requested that future Ethics Spotlights be presented quarterly.

**Informational Items**

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

Ms. Allen reported that there were no overdue financial disclosure filers.

Chair Pruden asked for an update on employee annual disclosures. Ms. Dorsey White replied that there are approximately 200 disclosures outstanding. Chair Pruden asked if Ms. Dorsey White knows why these employees have not complied. She responded that some are no longer employed at WSSC and did not see the necessity to submit a form prior to leaving. She added that there is confusion among some about submitting a new disclosure in addition to what they submitted in April. Also, Chair Pruden asked Ms. Dorsey White what actions she is taking to address the issue. She replied that she is contacting employees and working with managers. Chair Pruden stated that it may be useful for General Manager/CEO Carla Reid to send an email. Ms. Dorsey White suggested that a reminder could be sent along with the ethics training announcement. The Board agreed with the recommendation.

**Proposed Change to the Code of Ethics**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the legal sufficiency review for the proposed change to Article IV. in the Code of Ethics. Subsequent to submitting the proposed changes, a review of the inspection codes revealed that there is a mechanism to address misconduct by a regulated entity through the citation process.

Chair Pruden asked if the misconduct provision is sufficient to cover attempted bribery situations. Ms. Dorsey White replied that it appears so.

Mr. Beers also raised the concern that the language proposed after the legal sufficiency review would cover possibly innocent attempts to give gifts by all persons doing business with WSSC which includes lobbyists, vendors, and regulated entities. He reminded the Board that the reason for considering the change was due to the impression that Regulatory Services needed an ethical violation to address attempted bribery of a code official without having to rely on a criminal conviction. Ms. Dorsey White added that if the provision is changed it could appear as an alternate mechanism which could cause confusion about who should handle such allegations. The Board reached consensus that the proposed changes should be tabled until the necessity for them is confirmed.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to table the discussion to a future meeting.

#### **Closed Session Approval**

At 1:36 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to enter into closed session to approve September 14, 2022 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/Legal Investigations.

**Attendees:** Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Legal Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; and Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen.

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – September 14, 2022**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the September 14, 2022 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 Closed Session Minutes.

**Complaint C-22-09**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

**Complaint C-22-10**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

**Potential Complaint / Legal Investigations**

Mr. Beers provided an update on current legal investigations.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angelique Dorsey White", written over a horizontal line.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer