

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF January 3, 2005

St. Mary's County Governmental Center, Rm. 14

Members Present: David Deaderick, Chair
George Baroniak, Vice Chair
Joseph B. Bush, Member
Arthur Goeller, Member
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary
Susan J. Wolfe, Executive Secretary
Heidi E. Dudderar, Assistant County Attorney

Members Absent: Viola Gardner, Alternate Member
Zora Siemasko, Member

Others Present: Walter Burch

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Deaderick at 2:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Due to the holiday on January 17, 2005, the next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2004.

Mr. Goeller will not be available for the last meeting in January and the two meetings in February.
Ms. Siemasko will not be available January 3 through February 7.

The meeting was temporarily suspended to recognize the accomplishments of Shirley Baldwin, as Executive Secretary to the Commission.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:

Minutes of December 20, 2004. Mr. Deaderick requested that the statement under Announcements be clarified by adding the words "... as successor secretary ..." The motion was made by Mr. Baroniak to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

FDS Status: 255 Financial Disclosure Statements have been sent and 255 have been approved for 2003.

Review Session Two statements were reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Schedule for 2004 FDS. FD forms will be sent by the end of January. This year, recipients will also be able to complete the form online through the Ethics Commission website. First reminder letters will be sent after February 28. Second reminder letters will be sent after March 21. If required, cease and desist letters will be sent after May 2.

Revisions to Ethics Ordinance. Based on a previous request from the Ethics Commission, Heidi J. Dudderar, Assistant County Attorney, discussed two items regarding the proposed revision of Section 5. *Conflict of Interest* of the Public Ethics Ordinance. She noted that after her discussions with Bob Hahn, General Counsel, State Ethics Commission, and County Attorney Norris, the County Attorney's Office is recommending the following changes:

- § 5.D.2.e. To eliminate the language "a professional or intercollegiate sporting event" so the language of the section would be as follows: "Gifts of tickets or free admission extended to an elected official or employee to attend charitable, cultural or political events, if the purpose of this gift or admission is a courtesy or ceremony extended to the office." This would be consistent with the State language and Ms. Dudderar noted that Mr. Hahn may comment further. Commission members agreed with the recommendation.

- § 5.E.4. To reintroduce the phrase "substantially," so that the language would read ...[W]ithin two years following termination of County service, act as a representative of another in connection with any matter in which he/she **substantially** participated as a county official or employee." The County Attorney's office believes that this reintroduction would allow the Commission to discuss and decide any future conflicts of interest as covered under this section on an ad hoc basis. Commission members agreed with the recommendation.

The Chairman will make the necessary changes to the Ordinance and send it to the State Ethics Commission for review before the Ordinance is sent to the County Attorney's Office for submission to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

E-mail correspondence. Members discussed additional email correspondence from Walter Burch regarding the Development Review Forum. Mr. Burch presented his concerns. As a result of the discussion, the Commission will gather additional information for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[See under Unfinished Business: E-mail correspondence above]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bush moved to adjourn at 3:15 p.m. Motion was seconded and carried.

