

City of Hyattsville Ethics Commission
Wednesday, September 12, 2023 5:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Mark Graham, Michael Horlick (chair), T. Carter Ross (recordkeeper), David Sip. Staff: Nate Groenendyk, Laura Reams. Guests: Katie Siemon. One seat on the Commission is vacant.

1. A quorum was noted and the meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Michael Horlick.
2. Minutes for the meetings of June 27, 2023, were approved on a voice vote.

3. Review of Annual Reports

The commission reviewed the annual reports of candidates with open campaign accounts. Deputy Clerk Groenendyk noted that the following reports were received by the deadline of 1 p.m. on September 5, 2023. The following five reports were accepted as submitted.

- Robert Croslin (Mayor)
- Jimmy McClellan (Ward 3)
- Kareem Redmond (Ward 3)
- Emily Strab (Ward 2)
- Joanne Waszczak (Ward 1)

Discussion surrounded Councilmember McClellan's report, which reflected having earned a small amount of interest in his campaign account. The City Code does not bar the use of interest-bearing accounts, but there is no currently nowhere that this is documented. The commission recommended the City amend the campaign filing paperwork to ask if a campaign account is interest bearing or not. When the campaign finance reporting workbook is next reviewed, the Commission will consider adding a place to note any interest earned.

Clerk Reams noted that the following people who still have open accounts have not yet filed the required annual report. The Clerk's Office will follow up with each of them.

- Candace Hollingsworth (Mayor)
- Michelle Lee (Ward 4)
- Lisbeth Melendez Rivera (Ward 2)
- Carrianna Suiter (Ward 3)

4. Review Financial Disclosures

The commission reviewed the remaining annual finance disclosures from the following elected officials.

- Sam Denes (Ward 1)
- Edouard Haba (Ward 4)
- Jimmy McClellan (Ward 3)
- Rommel Sandino (Ward 5)
- Emily Strab (Ward 2)

5. Annual Ethics Certification

Clerk Reams reminded the Commission of the need to attest to the State of Maryland that the City is in compliance with state ethics laws and has received all required disclosures. The City is also

required to provide copies of any changes made in the past year to the Ethics Code. (The last update was in January 2023.) The Commission reviewed the form and authorized Chair Horlick to sign the certification.

6. New Business

Clerk Reams introduced Katie Siemon, who has expressed an interest in filling the vacancy on the Commission. The Commission welcomed Ms. Siemon and there was some discussion about the Commissions work and activities.

7. Adjournment

Absent an unanticipated need, the next Ethics Commission meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on October 24, 2023, to discuss the outstanding annual campaign finance reports.

There being no further business, Chairman Horlick adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m. on a voice vote.