

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Laurel, Maryland

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

Chair George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:06 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  
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate Counsel (virtual)  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – October 12, 2023**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the October 12, 2023 meeting.

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

**Matters of Discussion**

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for October 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 14 new employees as part of the onboarding process. Also, the mandatory annual ethics training for employees was launched on November 6, 2023. The deadline for completion is December 10, 2023.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 14 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Outside Employment / Interests.

Ms. Dorsey White added that she plans to participate in WSSC's "Small Business Industry Day" scheduled for December 7, 2023. She is working with Procurement to determine the best way for Ethics to participate in the event.

Lastly, Ms. Dorsey White stated that she will present the spotlight topic, "Gifts and Donations" at the November 15, 2023 Commission meeting. Chair Pruden asked if WSSC has a de minimis amount for gift acceptance. Mr. Hysen stated that the federal government allows employees to accept gifts valued up to twenty (\$20) dollars a time, not to exceed fifty (\$50) dollars in a calendar year from any one source. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to know the de

minimis rules for the state and local counties. Ms. Dorsey White will research this and provide an update at the January 2024 meeting.

Ms. Taylor asked how to handle gift donations for retirees. Ms. Dorsey White replied that they are considered expressions of sentiment and referred to Code Chapter 1.70.220(b)(4).

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

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

**Closed Session Approval**

At 1:28 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13) to approve October 12, 2023 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address two Complaints; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(ii) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding two Complaints, a Personnel Matter, Project Cornerstone Referrals, 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; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board

Margaret Ann Nolan.

Due to Ms. Dorsey White and Mr. Beers being recused from Complaint C-23-01, they were not present at the beginning of the Closed Session.

Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan joined the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

**Closed Session**

**Complaint C-23-01**

Chair Pruden provided an update on this case.

Ms. Nolan left the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – October 12, 2023**

Ms. Dorsey White and Mr. Beers joined the closed session at 2:05 p.m.

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the October 12, 2023 meeting.

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

**Personnel Matter**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

**Project Cornerstone Report Referrals**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

**Potential Complaints**

**Potential Complaint #13**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

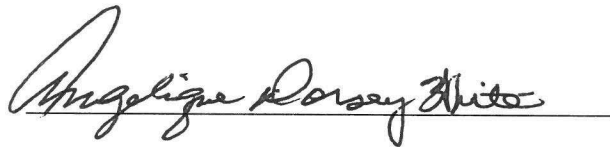
On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to decline to proceed with this matter at this time pending further information.

**Legal Investigations**

Mr. Beers provided updates 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 3:34 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angelique Dorsey White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer