

City of Hyattsville Ethics Commission
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Mark Graham, Michael Horlick (chair), T. Carter Ross (recordkeeper), Katie Siemon, David Sip. Staff: Nate Groenendyk, Laura Reams.

1. A quorum was noted and the meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chair Michael Horlick.

2. **Prior Meeting Minutes**

Minutes for the meeting of January 10, 2024, were approved on a voice vote.

3. **Outstanding Annual Reports**

Chair Horlick noted that the commission had been unable to connect with former candidate Melendez Rivera regarding her outstanding report. This led to a broader discussion about general policy around the ability and obligations of the commission in repeated attempts to ensure final reports were filed by former candidates. Clerk Reams noted that the city code (§ 8-7 C–D) does include language allowing the Board of Election Commissioners to decline to certify candidates who have outstanding reports from prior election cycles, but there is discretion in how the board handles such issues. That noted, due the likelihood that documentation may be lost and memories may fade, she noted, it benefits everyone to have all reports filed correctly earlier rather than later.

Mr. Ross noted that in his tenure on the commission the general policy has been to ask for candidate to file the necessary reports several times, but at some point the issue is left open unless there is a future run for office. He noted that the ability to fine someone (or other powers to compel compliance) lies with the Board of Election Supervisors, not the Ethics Commission.

Chair Horlick expressed interest in documenting the concern surrounding outstanding reports via a letter to the Board of Election Commissioners. The commission agreed upon that course of action. A letter will be drafted offline and circulated for comment. A hope was expressed that by working with the Board of Election Commissioners these delinquent filings could be resolved speedily.

4. **New Business**

No new business was brought forward.

5. **Adjournment**

Absent an unanticipated need, the next Ethics Commission meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on March 12, 2024.

There being no further business, Chair Horlick adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m. on a voice vote.