

Albany County Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021 3:00pm
Room 940
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207

Meeting conducted in person and remotely via Zoom

In attendance: Michael Rest, Bernard Malone, Gerard Maney, and Hyde Clarke (via Zoom), Patrick Collins, and Sia Googas

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Maney at 3:00 p.m.

All 4 members present- quorum present

1. The Open Meetings Law and the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic Governor's Executive Orders on its suspension were discussed. It was determined that Mr. Clarke could participate in the meeting via Zoom.
2. Reviewed the meeting minutes from June 30, 2021 meeting, a motion from Judge Malone to adopt the minutes without modification was seconded by Mr. Rest, and the meeting minutes were unanimously adopted.
3. The Commission discussed the responses to the Financial Disclosure forms. Mr. Collins brought to the Commission a new committee, the Redistricting Commission and it was discussed whether they need to fill out Financial Disclosure forms. It was determined since they offer advice to the Albany County Legislature on the redistricting map that they are policy makers and subject to the Ethics Law and should be directed to complete a Financial Disclosure Form.
4. The Clerk of the Legislature will provide a list to the Ethics Commission of any outstanding Financial Disclosure forms for 2021. All persons with outstanding Financial Disclosure forms have been noticed at least once that they need to return a completed Financial Disclosure form.
5. Mr. Rest proffered his resignation to the Ethics Commission effective at the end of the meeting due to his upcoming move to a home outside of Albany County. The Commission thanked him for his service and accepted his resignation as effective at the end of the meeting.
6. The Commission discussed the need for more members to the Ethics Commission due to the fact that following Mr. Rest's resignation there will be two vacancies. The Commission discussed the need for more Republicans/Conservatives to serve as required by the Ethics Law. Mr. Collins said that he would discuss with leadership in the majority and minority offices as the two vacancies belong to the Albany County Legislature.

7. The Commission discussed required filers for the 2022 Financial Disclosure forms. It was discussed to have Ms. Clement, the Commissioner of Human Resources, provide the Commission her recommended list of required filers earlier so that the Commission has time to review and make recommendations prior to adopting the list. It was discussed whether department heads should provide their recommendations on who they identify as policy makers.
8. The Commission discussed the drafting of the Annual Report for 2021. It was decided that Chairman Maney would review the first draft prior to the meeting and then the Committee would have a chance to review and comment at the meeting prior to adopting the 2021 Annual Report.
9. The Commission discussed its next meeting and a tentative date was set for January 19th at 3 pm. It was discussed that a meeting should not be held until further appointments to the Ethics Commission were made so that Commission could be at the operating level set by the Ethics Law.
10. Motion to adjourn – Mr. Rest moved to adjourn, Mr. Hyde seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Meeting ends 3:37 pm.