

**LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY  
METRO ETHICS COMMISSION MINUTES**

**September 15, 2011**

**3:30 pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Thelma Clemons  
Mr. Terry Conway  
Mr. Skip Daleure  
Mr. Jonathan Ricketts  
Ms. Vickie Tabler  
Ms. Terri Todd

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Janet Black, Admin. Support, HR  
Ms. Deborah Kent, Ethics Attorney  
Mr. Chris Lewis, Minority Caucus  
Mr. Dan Klepal, Courier-Journal  
Visitor

**Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Ethics Commission was called to order at 3:30 pm by Mr. Jonathan Ricketts. Mr. Ricketts asked for approval of August minutes. Mr. Skip Daleure made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Mr. Terry Conway seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Old Business**

Mr. Ricketts asked Ms. Deborah Kent to inform the Commission on the status of the Annual Report. Ms. Kent stated that the report was due July 31<sup>st</sup> but she had met with the Metro Council Accountability Committee to explain the need for an extension of that date. Ms. Kent stated that a draft of the information to be compiled and would be sent to Commission members for review by the next meeting.

**New Business**

Mr. Ricketts spoke to the group about forming an ethics workgroup to recommend amendments to the Ethics ordinance and the Commission rules and regulation.. Mr. Ricketts asked for nominations for a chair to the workgroup. Mr. Daleure was nominated by Ms. Thelma Clemons and Ms. Terri Todd seconded. All members asked to serve on the workgroup. It was decided that the workgroup would meet prior to the next scheduled meeting on October 20, 2011.

Discussion of MSD's proposal for the Ethics Commission to provide opinions to their organization was brought to the members. Several questions were raised as

to the legality of jurisdiction. Did MSD have an ethics policy? Would Metro Ethics be bound by their rules? How were issues handled in the past? Would Metro & MSD enter into an inter-local agreement? After discussion, Mr. Ricketts made a motion that Ms. Kent directed to engage in conversation with the attorney for MSD and ferret out issues and boundaries such as what is the process, same ethics and code, etc. Mr. Terry Conway second and the motion was moved.

### **Advisory Opinion 11-C-002**

Discussion concerning whether it would be a violation for Metro Council Members to accept an invitation from U of L to ride a bus to Lexington, as well as a tailgate party and tickets to the game. Metro Council Members would be charged \$30.00 for the bus ride. Mr. Ricketts recognized Mr. Chris Lewis to speak on behalf of the MC members. Mr. Lewis informed the Commission that in the past MC members were offered the opportunity to buy seasonal tickets and were invited to tailgate parties, but was not paying for the bus. Mr. Daleure asked if game tickets were accepted, why wasn't the bus? Mr. Ricketts argued that Section 21.02,-qui quo-pro was an issue with him concerning reasonable hosting. Ms. Kent asked when you ask about "reasonable" do you believe it would be considered a bribe? Mr. Daleure stated that he believed it would be a good will gesture. Mr. Ricketts asked the Commission to look at Subsection E (violations). Mr. Daleure made a motion that he did not see a problem with accepting the invitation and Ms. Thelma Clemons seconded. Mr. Ricketts withdrew his reservation.

### **Advisory Opinion 11-C-003**

Council Member David James asked for an opinion on whether or not it would be a violation for him especially to accept the bus ride to the game since he is employed by the university and serves as a council member in that district. After discussion the Commission voted that it would not be a violation.

Ms. Terri Todd made a motion for adjournment with Mr. Daleure seconding the motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.