

**LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY
METRO ETHICS COMMISSION MINUTES
March 15, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Thelma Clemons
Mr. Terry Conway
Mr. Skip Daleure
Mr. Jonathan Ricketts
Ms. Vickie Tabler
Ms. Enid Trucios-Haynes

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Janet Black, Admin. Support, HR
Mr. Pete Karem, Attorney
Ms. Deborah Kent, Legal Counsel
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman, Maj. Caucus Dir
Ms. Carolyn Miller-Cooper, Dir. Human Relations
Ms. Kellie Watson, Dir., Human Resources

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Ricketts called the meeting of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Ethics Commission to order at 4:05 pm. Mr. Ricketts asked for the minutes to be approved. Mr. Skip Daleure made a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Terry Conway seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

Advisory Opinion 11-D-001

Mr. Ricketts made a motion and the Commission voted to accept the opinion letter drafted by Legal Counselor after discussion of Request for Opinion 11-D-001.

Chairman Ricketts then called on Legal Counsel to report on progress on proposed amendments to LMO Chapter 21. Ms. Kent reported that she had met with Councilman Jerry Miller, Chair of Metro Government Accountability and Ethics Committee to review the proposal, and that the amendments have been reviewed by the County Attorney. Ms. Kent reported that the Committee would take up the amendments for approval in the next few weeks.

New Business

Advisory Opinion 12-D-001

Ms. Carolyn Miller-Cooper, Director of Human Relations provided an overview of the Housing Urban Development Grant that was received by the Human Relations Commission to assist in fighting housing discrimination in Kentucky. Ms. Miller-Cooper explained that the grant would be distributed to several fair housing non-profit agencies in Kentucky, including the Metropolitan Housing Coalition on which Ms. Miller-Cooper serves as a member of the board. Mr. Ricketts asked if Ms. Miller-Cooper had any discretion in the allocation of grant funds, and the

response was no. Mr. Ricketts asked if Ms. Cooper-Miller benefited in any way from the grant or the Coalition's activities. The Commission, after discussion, decided that Ms. Miller-Cooper's involvement would not present a conflict with her official duties, would not gain her any unwarranted privilege, or impair her objectivity.

Complaints 12-P-001, 12-P-002, 12-P-003, 12-P-004, 12-P-005, 12-P-006

Chairman Miller reported that the Commission has received a letter from the Complainant asking to withdraw his complaints as the events from which the complaints arise occurred more than 1 year ago and are therefore barred from consideration under LMO §21.06(A). Mr. Ricketts confirmed that the Commission had no procedure for withdrawal.

Mr. Ricketts recognized Mr. Pete Karem, Esq., who represents the Respondents, and asked the Commission to dismiss the complaints against his clients as without merit. He referred to §Section 21.06(E) of the ordinance. Mr. Ricketts informed Mr. Karem that his request would be included in the minutes.

Closed Session

Mr. Ricketts moved that the Commission go into closed session. Mr. Daleure seconded. In discussion of the motion, Commissioner Conway stated that he would need to recuse himself from discussion of one of the Complaints. Mr. Ricketts explained that Mr. Conway should remain for discussion of Complaints 12-P-001, 12-P-002, 12-P-003, 12-P-005, and 12-P-006, and then leave Executive Session during deliberation of 12-P-004.

Closed session began at 4:28 pm. The Commission reconvened at 4:50 pm.

Mr. Terry Conway made a motion to dismiss Complaints 12-P-001, 12-P-002, 12-P-003, 12-P-005 and 12-P-006. Ms. Thelma Clemons seconded and the motion was moved. Mr. Ricketts made a motion that the Commission dismisses complaint 12-P-004. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daleure and so moved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm