

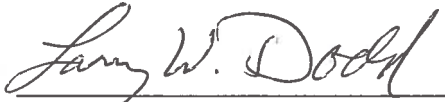
Open Work Session
Proposed Amendment to Ethics Law
January 21, 2020

Mr. Weston Young, Assistant Director of Administration, came before Council and said these are, basically, amendments to the County's Ethics Law to coincide with changes made at the State level to Maryland Public Ethics Law. He said what was removed can be seen by strikethrough, and the capital letters indicate the changes made. He said some of the changes are that previously the home address of a nonpublic official could be publicly listed, and they have struck that. He said another change is for Elected Officials in that one year after their term has ended they are not able to be a lobbyist, basically. He said it is a requirement to update this. Mr. Dodd asked how often somebody becomes a lobbyist, to which Mr. Young responded, that is a very good question, and he thinks they see it more at the State and Federal level, but it could happen, theoretically, and it has been determined that it is not an ethical course of action, or that they are stale after a year.

Mrs. Hurley said, at MACO last Wednesday, they mentioned there were going to be several other changes to the Ethics Law at the State level. She then asked if Mr. Young thinks it would be a good idea to hold this until they see what happens in Annapolis, or does he think they should continue to move forward with this, to which Mr. Young responded, although he will probably be coming before Council a second time with the revised changes, they never know if they are going to be adopted or what form they are going to be adopted in, so he, personally, leans towards adopting these changes and then coming back at that time when the State makes further changes, but he is open to whatever. He said, if Council wants to delay, they can wait to see when the State makes those changes. He said, with what has happened in Baltimore and with some of the campaign finance issues at the Delegate level, there are some needed changes, but he does not know if it will affect the County specifically. Mr. Dodd said he knows the Governor is pushing for some changes, but he does not know if it is going to affect the County. He then asked if Council wants to schedule a hearing, or do they want to wait? Mrs. Acle asked if Council has a choice, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, this would come back before Council as an introduction first. Mr. Cannon said he thinks the changes are so minimal that he would say to just wait, to which Mr. Dodd responded, that is what he was thinking. He said this was the topic of discussion at the first meeting last Wednesday at MACO, and he is fine with waiting if everybody else is comfortable with waiting. There was no further discussion.

Signatures on next page

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Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3




John T. Cannon, Vice President, At-Large



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Nicole Acle, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator