

Howard County Compensation Review Commission

MINUTES (Approved)

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Time: 6:35 p.m.

Place: CVG Conference Room, George Howard Building, Ellicott City

Commission Members in attendance:

Peter Hong
Deeba Jafri
Teresa Johnston
Jennifer Jones
Pravin Ponnuri
Steven Sachs
Mary Ann Scully

Staff present:

John Gwynn, Office of Law
Jeff Meyers, County Council staff
Ali Shirazie, County audit staff

- Introduction of Commission Members and staff.
- Mr. Gwynn reviewed the law that governs the Commission including the requirement of at least one public hearing and requirements of the State Open Meetings Act. The Commissioners were given a handout that includes the text of:
 - Maryland Code, Local Government Article, § 10-302
 - Howard County Charter, Sections 202(d) and 302(d)
 - Howard County Code, Title 5, Subtitle 1
- Selection of Officers:
 - Mr. Ponnuri volunteered to serve as Chair. His offer was unanimously approved by the Commission.
 - Mr. Sachs volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair. His offer was unanimously approved by the Commission.
- The Commission set a date for a public hearing: October 18, 2017, at 6:30p.m.
- The Commission discussed how it should proceed in order to make fair and reasonable recommendations. The discussion included the difficulty of making comparisons to the private sector and to other counties.
- The Commission initially desires to interview the County director of Human Resources and the Council Administrator.
- The Commission determined to request written responses from the incumbent Council Members to these questions:
 1. Stated as a weekly average, how much time do you devote to your duties as a Council Member? What proportion of that time is devoted to (a) legislative matters, (b) constituent services, (c) attending meetings, (d) managing employees, and (e) other tasks (please describe)? Which of those are most important?

2. What skills and abilities must a person have as a Council Member and which of those are most important?
 3. What do you think the compensation package should be for the next Council?
 4. What else would you like to tell the Commission?
- The Commission asked staff to provide it with certain information from Howard and several other counties about (a) compensation for council members and executives, (b) demographics, and (c) budgets.
 - The Commission set its future meeting schedule as follows:
 - September 28, 2017
 - October 11, 2017
 - October 18, 2017 (public hearing)
 - November 9, 2017
 - November 15, 2017
 - December 6, 2017 (if needed)
 - December 14, 2017 (if needed)
 - The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.