



**City of Clarksville
Ethics Commission
Sept. 24, 2021, 4:00 PM
City Hall, 1 Public Square, 4th Floor
Clarksville TN**

AGENDA

Commission Members:

Anthony Alfred
Bridgett Childs
David Kanervo
Mark Rassas
Gregory Stallworth

1. Call to Order – Chairperson Childs
2. Introduction of Dr. Gregory Stallworth—Chairperson Childs
3. Approval of the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Meeting – Chairperson Childs
4. Discussion of pending Ethics Complaints – Chairperson Childs
 - a. Complaint #1 (Aug. 21, 2020) by Jeff Robinson against Lance Baker
 - i. Merits hearing currently set for 10/19/21; Baker’s request for continuance; Baker’s request that Commission issue subpoenas
 - b. Complaint #5 (Jan. 15, 2021) by Jeff Robinson against Mayor Pitts, Lance Baker, and Saul Solomon—Bill Ramsey
 - c. Complaints #6 (James R. Lewis)and #11 (Bruce Griffey) (Jan. 12, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 2021, combined; March 3, 2021)) against Richard Garrett
 - i. Opinion of Counsel to Commission concerning jurisdiction
 - ii. Hearing Schedule
 - d. Complaint #13 (Aug. 27, 2021) by Bruce Griffey against Vondell Richmond
 - i. Schedule sufficiency determination
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment



**Ethics Commission
August 24, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The Ethics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Childs on August 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ATTENDANCE

Bishop Anthony Alfred, Ms. Bridget Childs, Dr. David Kanervo, Mr. Mark Rassas

Also Present: Mr. Lance Baker, Ms. Paige Lyle, Ms. Callie Jennings, Mr. Bill Purcell, Mr. Saul Solomon, Mr. Jeffrey Robinson

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 26, 2021 MEETING

A motion was made and duly seconded to adopt the minutes of the May 26, 2021 meeting.

The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

ADOPTION OF THE WRITTEN DECISION FROM THE MAY 26, 2021, MEETING

A motion was made and duly seconded to adopt the written decision attached hereto. The written decision attached hereto was adopted by unanimous vote.

REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS AND DISCUSSION OF MATTERS PENDING BEFORE THE COMMISSION

1. August 21, 2020 Complaint (#1) brought by Jeff Robinson against Lance Baker

The Commission scheduled a merits hearing for October 19, 2021.

2. Status of Hearing on the Complaints (#6 & #11) made against Richard Garrett

The Commission discussed the status of the Complaints involving Richard Garrett.

The Commission requested that Saul Solomon and Callie Jennings present their legal opinion at a subsequent meeting on September 24, 2021 as to whether the Commission retains jurisdiction to issue a merits decision on the Complaints given Mr. Garrett's resignation, or whether the Complaints should be dismissed.

3. **January 15, 2021, Complaint (#5) brought by Jeff Robinson against Joe Pitts, Lance Baker and Saul Solomon**

The Commission discussed the status of the pending Complaint made against Joe Pitts, Lance Baker, and Saul Solomon that had not yet been reviewed for the first stage vote. The Commission members also discussed the status of any potential conflict with Mr. Solomon given his inclusion in the Complaint.

The Commission discussed the applicability of the Ethics Code to Mr. Solomon and decided that, to avoid any appearance of impropriety, they would obtain outside legal counsel not affiliated with the law firm of Mr. Solomon to advise them as to this one Complaint. Upon a motion, which was duly seconded, the Commission unanimously voted to select attorney Bill Ramsey to advise it on this matter at a subsequent meeting set for September 24, 2021, after which the Commission will determine whether to vote Complaint #5 forward to a hearing.

NEXT STEPS

The Commission set their next meeting for September 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

City of Clarksville Ethics Commission

Notice of Decision

On April 7, 2021, the City of Clarksville Ethics Commission met, pursuant to Section 1-621(a)(6)(b) of the City of Clarksville Code of Ethics, to review the August 21, 2020 Complaint brought by Jeff Robinson against Lance Baker.

The Commission determined that they required additional information from the Complainant to evaluate the Complaint. Such supplemental information was provided by the Complainant and evaluated by the Commission at their May 26, 2021 meeting.

The Commission determined that the alleged facts supporting Violation No. 1 in the Complaint, if true, could be a violation of the Ethics Code. Based on this, the Commission determined a hearing shall be held to determine whether the allegations in Violation No. 1 of the Complaint have merit. A vote was taken, and by 5-0 vote, the Commission moved the Complaint forward to a hearing to be held in accordance with Section 1-621(b) of the Ethics Code.

The Commission determined that the alleged facts supporting Violation No. 2 in the Complaint, even if true, would not be a violation of the Ethics Code. A vote was taken, and by 5-0 vote, the Commission dismissed Violation No. 2 in the Complaint.

This written decision is issued pursuant to Section 1-621(c) of the Ethics Code.

Chairperson Bridgett Childs