

Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC)

Compliance Report: Conflict of Interest

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2021

Following the 2020 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly, House Bill 370 was enacted on May 8, 2020 as *Chapter 185 - Bicounty Commissions – Annual Reports – Conflicts of Interest and Lobbying - PG/MC 102–20* (hereafter Chapter 185, or Ch. 185) under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution. Chapter 185 requires each Maryland bicounty Commission to produce an annual report on conflict of interest issues and regulations during the previous calendar year, submit the report to the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates, and publish the report on the bicounty Commission’s website.

WSTC Conflict of Interest Policy

Regulations governing conflict of interest for the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC, or the Commission) are specified in the enabling legislation which established the Commission. Equivalent language is included in the county code of both Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties (the district).

10. Conflicts of interests.

- (1) No commissioner, nor any other officer, employee, agent or consultant, shall have any interest in any person or company engaged in the business of providing public transportation in the district or within the metropolitan area in which the district is located, or in the manufacture or sale of passenger transportation equipment or facilities.*
- (2) No commissioner nor any agent, officer, employee or consultant thereof, shall contract with the district or be interested in, either directly or indirectly, any contract with the district or in the sale of any property, either real or personal, to the district.*
- (3) Any violation of this provision shall be a misdemeanor and punished as provided by law.*
- (4) All commissioners are public officials as defined under the Maryland Public Ethics Law and are subject to the restrictions and requirements set forth in Title 15 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended and supplemented.*

(Laws 1965, Ch. 870, Sec. 1; Laws 1963, Sec. 83A-10; Ch. 433, Laws of Md., 2012)

Compliance

- *Financial Disclosure Statements*

As required of public officials under Title 15 of the State Government Article, the Commissioners of the WSTC must submit by April 30 a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Maryland State Ethics Commission. As of April 29, 2022, all Commissioners have successfully submitted Financial Disclosure Statements.

The Commissioners of record for the Washington Suburban Transit Commission during Calendar Year 2021 included:

- Col. Donald Drummer
- Mr. Michael Goldman
- Mr. Thomas Graham
- Hon. Thomas Hucker
- Secretary of Transportation Gregory Slater
- Hon. Todd Turner
- Mr. Christopher Zappi

- *Vendors*

The following list includes all vendors with which the Commission conducted routine business during Calendar Year 2020. This list was provided to WSTC Commissioners for use in completing their Financial Disclosure Statements:

- Corporate Payroll Services
- CNA Financial Corporation
- Garden City Investors, LLC
- GoDaddy Operating Company, LLC
- INDEED
- LinkedIn Corporation
- M&T Bank
- MassMutual Financial Group
- Montgomery County Government
- Patch.com
- ReadyRefresh/NESTLE
- SB & Company, LLC
- Staples, Inc.
- UniversalClass, Inc.
- Verizon Communications, Inc.
- The Washington Post
- ZipRecruiter, Inc.

- *Recusals*

In the event that a Commissioner held an interest (personal or property) in an outside organization which would create a conflict of interest in their ability to discuss or determine Commission policy, or to approve or authorize a contract or grant, the Commissioner(s) would be expected to self-identify the potential conflict and recuse themselves from the discussion and/or vote.

In Calendar Year 2021, there were no recusals on action items before the Commission as a result of self- or otherwise identified conflicts of interest. There was a single abstention on a voting item before the Commission. This abstention was not the result of a conflict of interest associated with the Commission's dealings with any vendors or other entities with which the Commission has regular dealings or interaction, nor as a result of the employment or other associations of any Commissioner of the WSTC.

Commissioner Zappi (Montgomery County) abstained from voting after the Commission deliberated whether to take a formal position on County Delegation bill PG/MC 111-22 – WSTC – Montgomery County Commissioners – Repeal of Term Limit. As a newly appointed Commissioner to the WSTC and an appointee of the County Executive of Montgomery County whose tenure on the WSTC would be directly affected by this piece of legislation, Commissioner Zappi felt it inappropriate to participate in the Commission's decision on whether to take a formal position on the proposed legislation. Of the other Montgomery County residents on the Commission, Chair Goldman was a gubernatorial appointee and, hence, not affected by the proposed legislation and Commissioner Hucker was not present for the discussion or vote. Among the Commissioners present and voting, the bill was supported unanimously.

Questions

Any questions, comments, or requests for additional information should be directed to:

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