

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**St. Mary's County Chesapeake Building**  
**Minutes of July 3, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**            David Willenborg, Chair  
                                      Joseph Russell, Vice Chair  
                                      Larry Crabtree  
                                      Dr. Joseph DeVitis  
                                      Kathleen McClernan-Walz  
                                      Robert McGann (alternate)  
                                      Joe Densford, Counsel for the Ethics Commission  
                                      Diane Gleissner, Recorder  
                                      Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Willenborg at 6:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Ethics Ordinance Changes**

Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney spoke with the Commission about their proposed changes to the filing of Financial Disclosure Statements for candidates running for office to ensure that the changes would comply with the St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McClernan-Walz and seconded by Mr. Russell to have Ms. Giddens and Mr. Densford draft the ordinance to say that any person running for office must file their Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) with the Ethics Commission at least thirty (30) days prior to the election filing date, which would allow the Commission time to meet and review the FDS for completion. The Ethics Commission will then issue certificates of filing of the FDS to the board of elections". Vote passed 5 – 0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Review of Financial Disclosure Statements**

The Commission reviewed the remaining Financial Disclosure Statements for completion and directed Ms. Gleissner to contact the filers to correct any errors.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. DeVitis and seconded by Mr. Russell, to adjourn the meeting. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:8 p.m. Vote passed 5-0.