



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

John K. Peterson, Chief Administrative Officer

TO: Bryon Black, County Attorney

FROM: John K. Peterson, Chief Administrative Officer 

DATE: January 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Revised-Transmittal of the Public Ethics Report to the Frederick County Ethics Commission

In accordance with the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, Section 5-861, please find the 2023 Public Ethics Report to the Frederick County Ethics Commission from the Office of the County Executive for reporting period July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

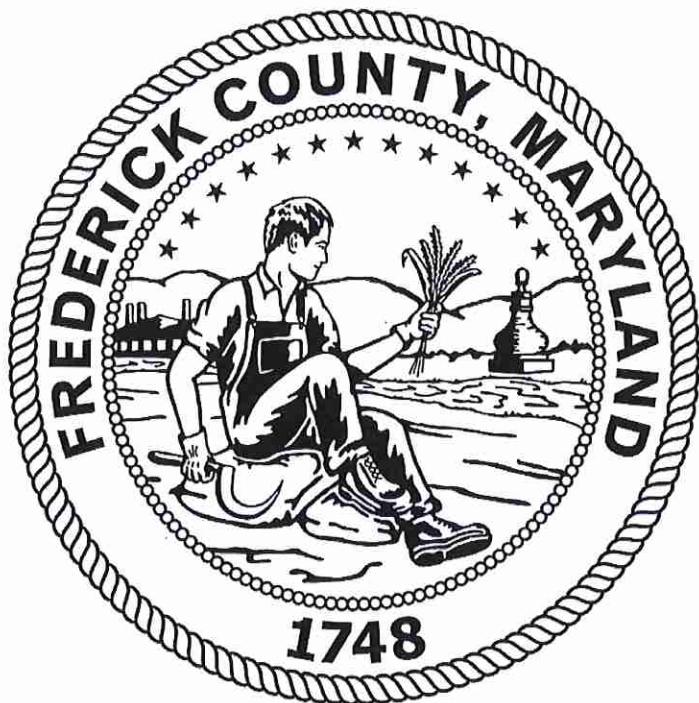
Disclosed Initials	
JF	County Executive Jessica Fitzwater
BY	County Council President Brad Young
KD	County Council Vice-President Kavonte Duckett
MC	County Council Member Mason Carter
JD	County Council Member Jerry Donald
MKA	County Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer
RK	County Council Member Renee Knapp
SM	County Council Member Steve McKay
CC	All County Council Members

Attachment

cc: Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County Council
Deborah Carpenter, Director, Planning and Permitting Division
Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff, Frederick County Council

**2023 Public Ethics Report
to the
Frederick County Ethics Commission**

July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023



Office of the County Executive

January 11, 2024

Submission Date	Date of Communication	Reporter	Summary of Conversation	Type of Communication	Explain Nature of Communication
8/3/2023	2/8/2023	Jerry Donald	Met with Sugarloaf Alliance members Blanca Poteat and Ingrid Rosencrantz. The topic discussed with the Sugarloaf Area Plan.	In-Person	
8/3/2023	2/21/2023	Renee Knapp	Met with Sugarloaf Alliance members Sue Trainor, Ingrid Rosencrantz, Johanna Springston, Karla Stoner, Steve Poteat and Nick Carrera. The topic of Sugarloaf Plan was discussed.	In-Person	
8/3/2023	2/21/2023	Kavonte Duckett	Met with members from Sugarloaf Alliance, Sue Trainor, Ingrid Rosencrantz, Johanna Springston, Karla Stoner, Steve Poteat and Nick Carrera. The topic of the Sugarloaf Plan was discussed.	In-Person	
8/3/2023	5/2/2023	Jerry Donald	Met with Members of Sugarloaf Alliance Steve Poteat, Steve Black and Peter Blood. Topic discussed was Sugarloaf Alliance.	In-Person	
8/3/2023	6/13/2023	Jerry Donald	Met with Sugarloaf Alliance Members Steve Poteat, Steve Black and Ingrid Rosencrantz. The topic discussed The Sugarloaf Alliance would like to clarify our position on Data Centers in general (spoiler alert... we're not against them). We also want to discuss the Quantum Loophole environmental "bumps in the road". This situation with QL actually has almost nothing to do with data centers. It's just old fashion bad behavior. Silence from county government is amplifying community concerns in a most unhelpful way. We would like to fill in any information gaps you might have and hear your views on the situation.	In-Person	

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8/3/2023	6/22/2023	Renee Knapp	Met with members of the Sugarloaf Alliance Ingrid Rosencrantz, Blanca Poteat and Sue Trainor. The topic discussed was a couple of topics including the releases from the old Eastalco Plant in Adamstown and some ideas on data center regulation. Is it possible for a couple of us to meet with you at your earliest convenience? Thanks so much! Ingrid Rosencrantz 240-818-1033	In-Person	
7/25/2023	7/20/2023	Renee Knapp	I attended the Elm St. Development Community Open House on Thursday July 20 at the New Market Grange Building. I looked at diagrams and charts prepared by Rodgers Consulting for the public open house event for the Casey Property/Cherry Run development. I spoke with Tim Crawford and Eric Soter about the information on the charts and asked a few questions.	In-Person	
8/8/2023	8/4/2023	Renee Knapp	I met with Sugarloaf Alliance members Sue Trainor, Ingrid Rosencrantz, and Blanca Poteat. We discussed data center development and the Sugarloaf Area Plan.	In-Person	
8/4/2023	8/4/2023	Renee Knapp	Met with member of the Sugarloaf Alliance Blanca Poteat, Ingrid Rosencrantz and Sue Trainor. The topic was discussion of Sugarloaf Area Plan and Data Centers.	In-Person	

Submission Date	Date of Communication	Reporter	Summary of Conversation	Type of Communication	Explain Nature of Communication
12/14/2023	10/2/2023	M.C. Keegan-Ayer	Met with Scott Noteboom, Josh Snowhorn, Rick Keiner and Council Member Renee Knapp on 10/2/2023 to get an update on QL's progress with resolving the issues with MDE regarding the dewatering of the site. Got interrupted by Mark Sankey of the FC Sustainability Commission who was passing by and ended up sitting with us. Conversation veered off to discussion of the "sustainable" practices that the QL folks envision for the development of the site.	In-Person	
11/8/2023	10/2/2023	M.C. Keegan-Ayer	Met with Scott Noteboom, Josh Snowhorn, Rick Keiner and Council Member Renee Knapp on 10/2/2023 to get an update on QL's progress with resolving the issues with MDE regarding the dewatering of the site. Got interrupted by Mark Sankey of the FC Sustainability Commission who was passing by and ended up sitting with us. Conversation veered off to discussion of the "sustainable" practices that the QL folks envision for the development of the site. Thanks, M.C.M.C. Keegan-Ayer County Council, District 3	In-Person	

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10/17/2023	10/6/2023	Steve McKay	<p>On 6 October 2023, in addition to previously report Facebook communication, I also sent the same message to my email list about an upcoming Planning Commission public hearing regarding a water & sewer amendment for the Calumet development in New Market:</p> <p>Water & Sewer Reclassification of the Smith/Cline (aka Calumet) Development in New Market. On Wednesday, October 11th at their meeting beginning at 9:30am, the Planning Commission will consider a water & sewer reclassification for the Calumet development. Water & sewer classification changes are typically technical matters with specific criteria that are either met or they're not met. This case has been a little different ... there's some history there! This is a request to change the water & sewer classification from W4/S4 to W3/S3, indicating that the development is moving closer to fruition. This is one step in the process that is bringing a 90 home development to the Town of New Market, straddling Boyers Mill Road. The County saw fit to reach settlement with the developer and the Town over this matter, and this is the outcome. You can read more in the Staff Report here:</p> <p>I included a link to the Staff report. I have previously provided the ~540 names on my email list and can do so again, upon request. I received no follow up notes about this topic.</p>	Email	

Submission Date	Date of Communication	Reporter	Summary of Conversation	Type of Communication	Explain Nature of Communication
10/17/2023	10/17/2023	Steve McKay	<p>On 6 October 2023, I posted the following on my personal and Council Facebook pages to alert residents to a Planning Commission public hearing about water & sewer amendments for the Calumet development in New Market:</p> <p>Water & Sewer Reclassification of the Smith/Cline (aka Calumet) Development in New Market. On Wednesday, October 11th at their meeting beginning at 9:30am, the Planning Commission will consider a water & sewer reclassification for the Calumet development. Water & sewer classification changes are typically technical matters with specific criteria that are either met or they're not met. This case has been a little different ... there's some history there! This is a request to change the water & sewer classification from W4/S4 to W3/S3, indicating that the development is moving closer to fruition. This is one step in the process that is bringing a 900 home development to the Town of New Market, straddling Boyers Mill Road. The County saw fit to reach settlement with the developer and the Town over this matter, and this is the outcome. You can read more in the Staff Report here:</p> <p>I provided the link the County staff report as part of the post. I received no direct messages or comments on the post, and a single "like".</p>	Social Media	
11/8/2023	10/24/2023	Kavonte Duckett	<p>Met with Bruce Dean, J. Whitebread and Chris Smariga to discuss the Toms & Mercers Annexations.</p>	Other	Virtual Meeting

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11/20/2023	10/26/2023	Jerry Donald	CM Donald met with Scott Noteboom of Quantum Loophole to discuss water usage. See email below that discussed a meeting and what CM Donald's concerns were.	In-Person	
11/20/2023	10/30/2023	Jerry Donald	Met with the owner of Dream Catcher Farm at the property.	In-Person	
11/20/2023	10/31/2023	Jerry Donald, Renee Knapp	Meet virtually via Teams with personnel from Hubbell and Rowan Digital, Martin Romo, Nathaniel Brown and Xiomara Gerlach	Other	Teams Meeting
11/8/2023	11/7/2023	Renee Knapp, Jerry Donald, Kavonte Duckett	Steve Black, Sue Trainor, and Nick Carrera of Sugarloaf Alliance spoke with the Council Members regarding the Sugarloaf Area Plan	In-Person	
11/8/2023	11/7/2023	Renee Knapp, Kavonte Duckett	Tom Natelli took the Council Members on a driving tour of the Urbana area.	In-Person	
11/20/2023	11/9/2023	Renee Knapp	Met with owner of Dream Catcher Farm on their property.	In-Person	
12/4/2023	12/3/2023	Steve McKay	On 2 December 2023, Karl Bickel wrote to me with several questions related to water & sewer amendments W-23-01 and W-23-02, mostly regarding the WSA and MOU and development in the area. I responded on 3 December 2023.	Email	
12/4/2023	12/3/2023	Steve McKay	Tony Burke and Eileen Bencke sent me an email asking if there would still be opportunity for public comment on water & sewer amendments W-23-01 and W-23-02. I replied that they would have the opportunity to comment.	Email	
12/5/2023	12/4/2023	Renee Knapp	Meeting between Council Member Knapp, Danielle Adams, Hugh Gordon and Rick Weldon. The topic of the meeting was Sugarloaf Overlay.	In-Person	

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12/19/2023	12/19/2023	Steve McKay	<p>I spoke with a Boy Scout troop in New Market about my job as a Council Member, our responsibilities, and issues of relevance to them. One scout asked about development in the area, and I described various projects in the region. As part of that discussion, I mentioned the proposed warehouse distribution center known as "New Market East". I told the scouts that the project was initially proposed through the County but there was going to be a problem with their zoning request. Since then, the project has been in discussion with the Town of New Market for potential annexation and development. I do not have any of the names of the scouts or their parents in attendance. The senior scout leader present was Jack Galuardi. I'm not sure if this is still a pending zoning change request or not.</p>	In-Person	