

Minutes

WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226 and via
Zoom

- A. Roll Call 9:05 a.m.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Philip J. Thomas, Chair | – Present |
| Ketra Lewis, Vice-Chair | – Present |
| Dr. Demetrius E. Ford | – Present |
| Peter Rageas | – Excused |
| William C. Schaefer | – Present |
| Frank D. Woods Jr. | – Present |
| 1 Vacancy | |

Also attending: Board Attorney Charles Longstreet II.

- B. Approval of the October 16, 2024 meeting minutes

Schaefer/Ford **Approved:** The minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Approval of the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes

Schaefer/Ford **Approved:** The minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

- C. Unfinished business

1. Update from the Commission staff, re: Proposed Ethics Ordinance amendment status

Chair Thomas asked Assistant Commission Counsel Mary Parisien for an update, and she confirmed there was no new information.

At this point in the proceedings, Chair Thomas made the following remarks:

Board Chair Thomas, in his final meeting as a Board member, expressed gratitude for the privilege of serving on the Ethics Board, commending the group's dedication and high standards. He highlighted amending the Ethics Ordinance as the Board's most critical work, noting that current and prior suggestions have been pending Commission action for two years. Chair Thomas recommended electing Vice-Chair Lewis as the new Chair in January and urged continued advocacy for adopting the proposed changes. He acknowledged the efforts of Board members and Attorney Longstreet, and thanked Ms. Parisien for her regular updates.

D. New Business

1. Communication dated October 24, 2024 (received October 30th) from James and Helen Orsette, re: Wayne County Probate Court's alleged violations. re: Wayne County Probate Court's alleged violations.

Ford/Lewis

Approved. Motion to adopt Attorney Longstreet's recommendation to dismiss the complaint over lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Motion Carried

Chair Thomas requested Attorney Longstreet to send a letter to the complainants, with Dr. Ford asking that the letter include an explanation of subject matter jurisdiction. Attorney Longstreet agreed to do so.

2. Discussion on the 2024 Year-end report

Schaefer/Ford

Approved. The 2024 Year-end report. Motion Carried

E. Such other matters as may be properly submitted by the Board

Chair Thomas proposed holding the next meeting on Wednesday, January 15, at 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, with the Board finalizing the 2025 meeting schedule at that time. Commission Policy Analyst Joe Slezak presented Chair Thomas with a framed certificate of appreciation for his service. Chair Thomas suggested the next Chair send a courtesy letter to Prosecutor Kym Worthy regarding her lack of a Board appointment and recommended Mr. Schaefer as the next Vice-Chair. Mr. Schaefer agreed to serve, with Chair and Vice-Chair elections scheduled for the January 15 meeting.

F. Public comments – None

G. Adjournment

Schaefer/Ford
Adjournment at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Octavia Hunter, Legislative Research Assistant