



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROCKVILLE ETHICS COMMISSION

Calendar Year 2025.

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

FROM: THE ROCKVILLE ETHICS COMMISSION

The Rockville Ethics Commission (“Commission”) consists of seven members, and its mission pursuant to Rockville City Code Section 16-2 is to:

- Ensure the public has the highest trust in city officials and employees
- Assure the public that decisions are made impartially and with independence of judgment
- Ensure city business is conducted free from improper influence.

During 2025, the Commission met five times with no agenda items after the September meeting, thus postponing the need for a meeting until February 2026. The Commission canceled one meeting in July due to lack of a quorum. During the year, the Mayor and Council appointed one commissioner, Brooks Hanner, to fill a vacancy on the Commission. Commissioner Karyne Akhtar resigned from the Commission on June 18, 2025, as she no longer resided within the City of Rockville’s boundaries. Each meeting was properly noticed, and the meeting agendas, minutes, and videos are available on the City of Rockville website.

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/1312/Ethics-Commission>

The primary activity of the Commission has been to review the financial disclosure forms of elected officials and candidates, members of designated boards, and senior level city staff for technical compliance as required by Rockville City Code and State law. As requested, the Commission also provides advisory opinions. In 2025, the Commission did receive one request for an advisory opinion. It is posted on the city website.

In 2025, 43 financial disclosure statements were filed, with 100% compliance among City Council members, boards, commissioners, and senior level members of city staff. While the Commission has the ability to leverage penalties against late or non-filers, the Commission did not have to do so in 2025. On September 18, 2025, the Commission certified, in accordance

with the requirements of Maryland law, that the City of Rockville complied with the requirements of General Provisions Article Title 5, Subtitle 8, Annotated Code of Maryland, for elected local officials. This certification was provided as required by Maryland law to the State Ethics Commission.