

**THE ACCOUNTABILITY CONDUCT AND ETHICS
COMMISSION**

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TONYA B. JOHNSON, ESQ.
CHAIRPERSON

DR. VALIRE COPELAND
DR. RONALD H. STONE
JESSE TORISKY, ESQ.
WILLIAM F. WARD, ESQ.

Honorable John DeFazio, President
Allegheny County Council
119 Allegheny County Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

Dear President DeFazio:

Pursuant to Section 105.10 of The Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Code of Allegheny County (“Ethics Code”), this letter provides an Annual Report to County Council.

Meetings, Procedures and Website

The calendar year 2017 was the 15th full year of operation for The Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission of Allegheny County (“ACE Commission” or “Commission”). During the year, the Commission held four public meetings, with portions of those meetings being conducted in executive session.

The Ethics Code, information about the ACE Commission, its members and a Complaint Form remain available on the County’s website at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/commissions/accountability/index.aspx>. To further publicize and educate the public regarding the Commission’s existence and purpose, minutes of the Commission’s meetings and the Commission’s Annual Reports are posted to the County’s website.

County Council’s newly appointed Commission members, Jessie Torisky and William F. Ward, began participating in the Commission’s quarterly meetings in January 2017.

In the January 2017 meeting, Tonya B. Johnson was unanimously voted as the Commission’s Chairperson.

Theodore Trbovich, Esq, continues to serve as the legal advisor to the ACE Commission.

Public Disclosure of Interest Statements

The Public Disclosure of Interest Statement (“the Statement”) must be filed annually by all elected and appointed “county officers, county officials and public employees,” as defined in Section 101.03 of the Ethics Code. We rely on Department heads and employees themselves to determine if their positions in County government require that they file the Statement.

Complaints Received

The ACE Commission has received a total of 32 Complaints since its inception. However, no complaints were received during 2017. The Commission is awaiting the disposition of a recommendation that it made to County Council regarding a complaint filed prior to 2017.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality continues to remain important to the work of the ACE Commission, thus limiting the amount of information that can be revealed to the County Executive, County Council or to the public. In order to gain the trust and confidence of Complainants and Respondents, confidentiality is necessary, as required by the Ethics Code. The Commission remains committed to the Confidentiality provisions enacted by County Council.

Commission Activities

The members of the Commission continue to serve on a volunteer basis. The ACE Commission continues to abide by its responsibilities as laid out in the Ethics Code.

The Commission continues to have the valued assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the appointed legal advisor.

We continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully yours,



Tonya B. Johnson, Esq.
Chair, ACE Commission

Dr. Valire Copeland
Dr. Ronald H. Stone
Jesse Torisky, Esq.
William F. Ward, Esq.

CC: Allegheny County Council Members
Rich Fitzgerald, County Executive
Kenneth Varhola, County Council Chief of Staff