

**THE ACCOUNTABILITY CONDUCT AND ETHICS
COMMISSION**

119 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-5300 • FAX (412) 350-3581

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 – 2018

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 2018 was the 16th 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 - and 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.

Tonya B. Johnson, Esquire continues to serve as the Commission’s Chairperson.

Theodore Trbovich, Esquire continues to serve as the Legal Advisor to the ACE Commission.

On April 24, 2018, William F. Ward was reappointed to serve as a Member of the Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2023.

On December 3, 2018, the term of Dr. Ronald Stone expired. The Commission is grateful for his years of talented and dedicated service.

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 39 Complaints since its inception. Seven complaints were received during 2018.

Complaint #33 was filed in January 2018. A preliminary inquiry was held and the case was dismissed.

Complaint #34 was filed in January 2018. A preliminary inquiry was held and the case was dismissed.

Complaint #35 was filed in February 2018. A preliminary inquiry was held and the case was dismissed.

Complaint #36 was filed in March 2018. A notice letter was sent to the Complainant requesting that the complaint be notarized. To date, there was no response from the Complainant.

Complaint #37 was filed in July 2018. A preliminary inquiry was held and the case was dismissed.

Complaint #38 was filed in July 2018. A preliminary inquiry was held and the case was dismissed.

Complaint #39 was filed in August 2018. A preliminary inquiry was held and the ACE Commission determined additional information is required. The ACE Commission requested the production of additional information on three separate occasions from the Complainant, but did not receive the additional information from the Complainant or the Complainant’s attorney. Due to the lack of response, the ACE Commission dismissed the case.

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