Malfourd W. Trumbo, Chair
G. Stewart Petoe, Executive Director

VIRGINIA
CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND
ETHICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Senate Committee Room A, Third Floor
General Assembly Building

DRAFT

Council members present:

The Honorable Malfourd W. Trumbo
Senator Richard H. Stuart
Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Vivian E. Watts
John C. Blair
Adam Kinsman
Denise B. Burch

Council members not present:

Senator Adam P. Ebbin
The Honorable Westbrook J. Parker

Staff members present:

Stewart Petoe, Executive Director
Rebekah Stefanski, Senior Attorney
Matthew Hawkins, Attorney
Elizabeth Sundberg, Filing Manager
Valerie Mizzell, Filing Coordinator
Jake Mullican, Filing Associate

Summary:

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Judge Trumbo.

II. The first order of business was to review House Bill 2702 (2025), which was referred by letter to the Council from Delegate Bulova, Chair of the House General Laws Committee. Mr. Petoe explained the bill, which would create an exception to the general rule that government officers and employees may not have personal interests in contracts with their own agencies. The exception created by the bill would allow personal interests in contracts for towing services in a locality, if the contract was non-exclusive; i.e., multiple towing companies provide towing services for the locality, and the contract was regulated pursuant to Virginia Code § 46.2-1217. Mr. Petoe reviewed the existing exceptions for personal interests in contracts, and presented the policy issue to the Council as to whether this new exception should be added to the list. After discussion, a motion was made by Delegate

Watts and seconded by Senator Stuart to not create an additional exception for non-exclusive towing services. The motion unanimously carried. The Ethics Council does not endorse the policy proposed by the bill.

III. The next order of business was to approve the meeting minutes from the Council's November 20, 2024 meeting. Senator Stuart made the motion to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Blair. This motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

IV. Mr. Petoe presented the draft of the Council's 2025 Annual Report. Mr. Kinsman made the motion to approve the report for submission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blair and unanimously approved by the Council.

V. Judge Trumbo asked if anyone had signed up for public comment in-person or online. There were not any speakers in-person nor on-line.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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