



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council

From: Regine Watson, Town Clerk

Date: February 4, 2025

Subject: Summary of Interview Responses and Recommendations for Ethics Commission Appointments

Purpose:

This memorandum presents the responses to the interview questions posed to each appointee and my corresponding recommendations for each candidate to serve on the Ethics Commission.

Interview Questions:

1. How long have you been a resident of Bladensburg?
 2. Why are you interested in serving on the Ethics Commission?
 3. Do you have any relevant experience or background in ethics, governance, or law?
 4. Are you comfortable making tough decisions or intervening in ethical matters when necessary?
 5. Can you describe your volunteer experiences and how they relate to this role?
 6. Are you able to commit the required time for this role, particularly during the six months leading up to election time?
 7. How do you handle situations involving conflicts of interest or personal biases in decision-making?
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Appointee Recommendations:

1. Brandon Newsom:

- **Residency:** 4 years in Bladensburg
- **Interest in Ethics Commission:** Mr. Newsom's background as a psychiatrist and his leadership roles in school systems and student government demonstrate his understanding of ethics and governance.
- **Experience:** His experience with the Courageous Conversations initiative shows his commitment to community engagement.
- **Commitment:** Mr. Newsom is confident in his ability to make sound ethical decisions and is available to serve when needed.

Recommendation: Based on his diverse experience and dedication, I recommend Mr. Newsom for appointment to the Ethics Commission.

2. Michael Wildheart:

- **Residency:** 7 years in Bladensburg
- **Interest in Ethics Commission:** Mr. Wildheart's desire to serve stems from his experiences with unethical practices within his Homeowners Association, motivating him to contribute to his community.
- **Experience:** He is currently an editor for the Parkway newsletter and his church's newsletter, as well as serving as a minister, highlighting his leadership and communication skills.
- **Commitment:** He has assured us of his ability to commit the necessary time and energy.

Recommendation: Given his community involvement and leadership experience, I recommend Mr. Wildheart for appointment to the Ethics Commission.

3. Daryl Davis:

- **Residency:** 6 years in Bladensburg
- **Interest in Ethics Commission:** Mr. Davis has a proven track record in advocating for ethical practices, notably in addressing unethical practices within his condominium.

- **Experience:** He works at Johns Hopkins, where he is involved in governmental policies and enforcement.
 - **Commitment:** Mr. Davis is available to serve when needed and is committed to transparency and impartiality.
Recommendation: Based on his experience with ethical decision-making and professional background, I recommend Mr. Davis for appointment to the Ethics Commission.
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4. Jackson Marshall:

- **Residency:** 26 years in Bladensburg
 - **Interest in Ethics Commission:** Inspired by his grandfather, Mr. Marshall has a long history of volunteering and community service. He is eager to continue his community involvement.
 - **Experience:** Mr. Marshall has expressed his commitment to transparency and is comfortable intervening in ethical matters when necessary.
 - **Commitment:** He is willing to dedicate the necessary time and is prepared to recuse himself in cases of conflict of interest.
Recommendation: Given his extensive community involvement and commitment, I recommend Mr. Marshall for appointment to the Ethics Commission.
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5. John Carlson:

- **Residency:** 47 years in Bladensburg
 - Unfortunately, I was unable to interview Mr. Carlson before the Council agenda deadline. However, I have emailed the interview questions to him and am currently awaiting his response.
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Conclusion:

Each of the candidates—Brandon Newsom, Michael Wildheart, Daryl Davis, and Jackson Marshall—has demonstrated a strong commitment to ethics, transparency, and community service. Based on their experiences and dedication, I believe that each would be an asset to the Ethics Commission.
