

**WES MOORE**  
*Governor*

**ARUNA MILLER**  
*Lt. Governor*



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**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE**  
**BOARD**

***19 Official Opinions of the Compliance Board 1 (2025)***

**January 21, 2025**

**Keedysville Town Council**

The Complainant alleges that the Keedysville Town Council (the “Town Council”) violated the Open Meetings Act (the “Act”) in its handling of public comments at a November 2024 meeting. Specifically, the Complainant asserts that someone interrupted a speaker to ask him to identify himself and the Town Council limited the Complainant’s comments to three minutes but allowed another speaker to talk for more than four minutes.

We find no violation of the Act. As we have previously stated (including in prior opinions resolving allegations raised by this same Complainant), “[a] public body’s ‘handling of public comments’ is simply **not** ‘within the Act’s ambit.’” 18 *OMCB Opinions* 205, 206 (2024) (emphasis added). Moreover, “[w]e have . . . recognized that public bodies may take ‘reasonable measures,’ such as requiring meeting attendees to check in or provide identification, ‘to safeguard public property, government personnel, and members of the public who visit public buildings.’” 16 *OMCB Opinions* 30, 34 (2022) (quoting 9 *OMCB Opinions* 296, 299 (2015)). We thus find no violation of the Act based on the Complainant’s allegations.<sup>1</sup>

**Open Meetings Compliance Board**

*Lynn Marshall, Esq.*

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<sup>1</sup> The Complainant also asserts that the Council’s actions violated the First and Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution, but “[o]ur authority is limited to interpreting the Open Meetings Act.” 18 *OMCB Opinions* 84, 86 n.6 (2024).