

*at whichever of the offices in the Commission's judgment best suits the convenience of the public.*

#### **11. General Powers.**

*The Commission has the right to exercise all powers and functions granted to it in this Article. It has the right to use a common seal, to sue and be sued, and to do any and all other corporate acts for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Article.*

#### **12. Merit System.**

*The Commission is authorized and directed to establish a merit system or Classified service. In it shall be included all the employees of the Commission except the Commissioners, the heads of the several departments, and the Assistant General Counsel. The Commission further is authorized to make such rules and regulations as in its judgment are necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this Section. The rules and regulations from time to time may be abolished, supplemented, changed, or amended; except that any such rule and regulation and any change in them or addition to them shall not be effective until it has been approved by the State Commissioner of Personnel.*

#### **13. Reports and Audits.**

*The Commission shall publish annually in at least one newspaper published in Montgomery County and one in Prince George's County a full and true account of its receipts and disbursements. Prior to the publication, the accounts shall be audited by a certified public accountant employed by the Commission for the purpose of making this audit and certifying to the correctness of the published account.*

#### **13A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.**

**ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WHO IS PRESENT AT A MEETING AT WHICH IS DISCUSSED ANY MATTER IN WHICH HE HAS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, A PECUNIARY OR PROPERTY INTEREST, SHALL DECLARE HIS INTEREST AND SHALL REFRAIN FROM CASTING A VOTE IN RESPECT OF SUCH MATTER.**

#### **14. Employees' Right of Entry.**

*In the performance of the functions and duties of the Commission, any member or any employee or agent of the Commission has the right to enter at all reasonable hours upon any private premises and into any building in the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District or in the Maryland-Washington Regional District, in order to make examinations and surveys and to place and maintain necessary monuments and marks thereon. Any restraint or hindrance offered to any such entry, examination, survey, or placing or maintenance of monuments or marks by any owner or tenant or agent of an owner or tenant shall be a misdemeanor, punishable as such under the general penalty provisions of this Article.*

#### **15. Civilian Defense Activities.**

*The members of the Commission and its staff are authorized to engage in civilian defense or other defense activities under the di-*