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**CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND
ETHICS COMMISSION**

8103 Sandy Spring Road • Laurel, Maryland 20707

**LAUREL ETHICS COMMISSION
ADVISORY OPINION 2003-02**

December 2, 2003

[REDACTED]
8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your written request for an advisory opinion dated November 18, 2003. Also, thank you for appearing before the Ethics Commission and fully explaining your current position as the City's [REDACTED] as well as your plans to run for President of the [REDACTED] Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. The Ethics Commission understands that you have previously been the President of the Fire Department while holding a different City position.

After hearing your testimony and deliberation, then Ethics Commission voted unanimously that your seeking the position of President of the [REDACTED] Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. does not violate any provision of the Laurel Ethics Code so long as the following conditions are adhered to:

1. In your City position, you recuse yourself from any matter dealing directly with the [REDACTED] Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. This does not include press releases approved by City managers concerning the Fire Department or public information dissemination matters that arise as a result of your membership as a City employee on the City's Emergency Operations Team that is headed by the Deputy City Administrator.
2. In your position as President of the [REDACTED] Volunteer Fire Department; you recuse yourself in any matter which deals directly with the City of Laurel, Maryland.

[REDACTED]
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3. That you refrain from representing the [REDACTED] Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., before the Mayor and City Council or any City Board, Commission, Department or official.
4. That you fully comply with the provision of the Ethics Code including but not limited to Division 3, which includes Sections 2-62 through 2-68, as well as the provisions of the City's Personnel Policy, "Standards of Conduct" as they may apply. The Ethics Ordinance is available on the Ethics Commission's section of the City website for handy reference.

This advisory opinion is based on your testimony and submitted written materials that show that your current position as [REDACTED] is not one in which you exercise financial, regulatory or decision making authority over the [REDACTED] Volunteer Fire Department, and that the position you are seeking with the Volunteer Fire Department is purely pro bono.

Thank you for requesting the Commission's advisory opinion and appearing before the Commission, and for your service to the citizens of Laurel.

Sincerely yours,



James Hester
Chairperson

JH:pac
[REDACTED]