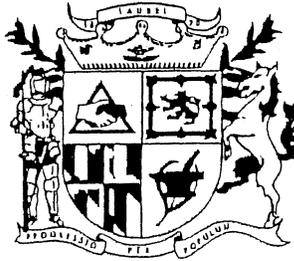


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CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND  
ETHICS COMMISSION

8103 Sandy Spring Road • Laurel, Maryland 20707

March 23, 2005

[REDACTED]  
City of Laurel

[REDACTED]  
8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, MD 20707

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated March 3, 2005, requesting an Advisory Opinion from the City of Laurel Ethics Commission. Also, thank you for your appearance and testimony at the Commission's Special Meeting held on March 17, 2005. Your cooperation is appreciated.

You are seeking the Commission's opinion regarding whether your new job with [REDACTED], which will require you to prepare and file building permits with the City of Laurel creates any violation of the City's Ethics Code. In the hearing on March 17, 2005, you outlined your present position with the City and your responsibilities. The Commission reviewed the applicable Code section and decided the following:

1. That your job with the City is more clerical in nature because you have no authority to approve or deny building permits.
2. That your job with the City did not require that you participate "substantially" in the granting of any building permits.
3. That any permits you worked on while with the City will be granted or denied within 3 to 5 days after you leave.
4. That you will not be preparing or submitting any permits to the City for at least one month after you leave.

[REDACTED]  
March 23, 2005

The Commission reviewed the appropriate Code requirements and determined that the section applicable to your situation is Sec. 2-62(e) which provides:

- e. No City official or employee, within one (1) year following termination of city service, shall act as a compensated representative of another in connection with any specific matter in which they participated substantially on behalf of the City.

As noted above the Commission finds that your position and responsibility regarding building permits does not meet the test of "participated substantially" because your responsibility was clerical and you could not approve or disapprove a permit. Further, your new job of preparing and submitting permits for [REDACTED] is for lots that were never permitted while you worked for the City and are not the same specific matter (i.e., permits) you dealt within your City employment. Therefore, the Commission finds no violation of the above quoted section of the City Code.

However, the Commission, while finding no violation, is concerned about any "influence" you might exert because of your prior City employment. Therefore, you are directed for a one (1) year period to refrain from exerting or attempting to exert any influence to obtain permits or obtain permits more quickly from the City.

Again, thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

James Hester, Chairman  
Laurel Ethics Commission