

CITY OF STAMFORD

Stamford Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center

Advisory Opinion

To: Matthew Quiñones, President
30th Board of Representatives

From: City of Stamford Board of Ethics

Date: September 26, 2018

Re: Advisory Opinion

Dear President Quiñones:

You requested an Advisory Opinion from the City of Stamford Board of Ethics. You advised us of the following facts:

1. Under State Statutes, the City of Stamford Charter, the Code of Ordinances or City contracts, The Board of Representatives and/or the President of the Board is required to appoint members of the Board of Representatives to serve on numerous City boards and commissions as well as outside agency non-profit boards.
2. In addition, several members of the Board of Representatives serve on the various Boards and Commissions in a voluntary and unpaid capacity.
3. You inquired whether those members of the Board of Representatives who were appointed by the Board of Representatives, the President of the Board or who serve on the outside board, commissions or agencies would have a conflict of interest if matters involving the boards, commissions or outside agencies were to come before the Board of Representatives.

With respect to your specific question: The Board of Ethics advised you that as the question is phrased, the answer would be: no.

The mere fact that a member of the Board of Representatives is appointed by the Board or the President or serves on a board, commission or agency cannot, by itself, plausibly give rise to a conflict of interest. In other words, a member of the Board of Representatives may concurrently serve on the Board of Representatives and other boards, commissions or agencies without a conflict of interest arising solely and exclusively because of that concurrent service. This opinion should not be read to excuse or condone any independently arising conflict of interest which occurs specific to an individual member's unique circumstances.