



Board of Ethics – City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard,
Stamford, CT 06901

The Honorable Jonathan Jacobson
Board of Representatives
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Representative Jacobson,

Thank you for your appearance before the Board of Ethics to address your March 10, 2017 request for an Advisory Opinion regarding whether you have a conflict of interest if your firm represents a Stamford resident in a writ of mandamus action to compel a city Zoning Enforcement Officer to issue a zoning permit.

Assuming the facts as you have presented them, the Board of Ethics does not believe that Section 19-4 of the Stamford Municipal Code of Ethics (conflicts of interests; interference with duties), precludes you from representing this client. You have indicated that you do not anticipate that this zoning matter will come before the Board of Representatives in any capacity and that if it should, you will recuse yourself from any participation in the matter and will seek additional guidance from this Board. Further, you are aware that it would be a separate violation of the Code of Ethics to attempt to use your position on the Board of Representatives to try to influence the Zoning Enforcement Officer to issue a permit to your client.

The Board wishes to emphasize that its finding pertains only to your specific circumstances, and should not be construed as precedent for any future requests for an advisory opinion or complaint filed with the Board.

The Board of Ethics thanks you for your service to our City and appreciates the thought and time you have devoted to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cheryl G. Bader, Chair
Allan Lang, Member
Monica Schlessinger Smyth, Member