

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

Advisory #2008-1

November 3, 2008

Randall Skigen, Esq.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Request for Advisory Opinion

Dear Attorney Skigen:

You have requested the Board of Ethics (the "Board") issue an advisory opinion addressing several issues. In issuing this Advisory Opinion, the Board relies on the information contained in your written request (08/06/08) and on the statements made in person at our recent meeting.

You are a member of the City's Board of Representatives. You currently are the chair the Fiscal Committee, and serve as a member of Personnel, State and Commerce, and Steering Committees. As such, you are bound by the City's Code of Ethics.

You were offered the position of Executive Director of a community improvement group called the East Side Partnership ("ESP"). The ESP's mission is to create a diverse neighborhood that works together to represent the interests of the East Side of the City of Stamford. You believe a portion of the Executive Director's salary will be paid from a Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") received by the ESP which is administered by the Community Development Office of the City of Stamford.

You have asked the Board to determine whether a conflict of interest exists under the Code of Ethics if you were to accept the position with the ESP and remain a member of the Board of Representatives. It is the Board's opinion that no conflict under the Code of Ethics would exist, provided you recuse yourself from the discussion, debate and vote of any matter (1) that would either relate directly or indirectly to the allocation or administration of the CDBG budget to the ESP; (2) directly affecting the ESP (including any matters covered by the budget of the City that would directly impact the activities of the ESP; and (3) in which you have any interest or would be likely to gain or lose any benefit that is not common to the general interest of the other citizens of the City. The Board also wishes to draw your attention to Section 19-6 of the Code of Ethics.


The scope of our authority is limited to the Code of Ethics. The Board of Ethics does not have the power to issue any opinion as to any other "local law."

I note that Board of Ethics Member Dan Young has recused himself from hearing and voting on your request. I also note that after our meeting (09/03/08) to discuss this request and after the Board voted to issue this opinion, a Mr. John Peters contacted the Board in an effort to submit additional information on behalf of a group called the "East Main Street Property Owners". For various reasons, including the timing of the submission, the Board declined to consider any additional information.

This opinion is binding upon the Board unless amended or revoked, and your reliance upon this opinion in good faith is an absolute defense to any action or proceeding brought under the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

Thank you for taking the time to request an advisory opinion, and for your service to the City of Stamford.

Very truly yours,


Amy J. LiVolsi
Chairman, Board of Ethics

cc: Donna Loglisci (Town Clerk)
Members of the Board of Ethics (Summons, Anderson, Levine, Young, Lang, Bader)