

**Board of Ethics**  
**City of Stamford**  
**888 Washington Boulevard**  
**Stamford, CT 06904**

November 18, 1998

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Stamford, CT 06902

RE: Request for advisory opinion

Dear XXXXXXXX:

You are a member of the Urban Redevelopment Commission (URC) of the City of Stamford. Your business, XXXXXXXX, has accepted a financial grant to conduct a feasibility study regarding the possible installation of Ground Water Heat Pump (GWHP) systems on property over which the URC has jurisdiction. You have requested the Board of Ethics issue an advisory opinion as to whether under the City of Stamford's Code of Ethics a conflict of interest exists between your membership on the URC and your involvement with the GWHP Consortium.<sup>1</sup>

The Board of Ethics met with you on October 7, 1998, and reconvened November 4, 1998 with additional questions for you and Attorney Bruce Goldberg. In issuing this advisory opinion, the Board relies on these discussions, as well as your written request dated October 1, 1998.

The Board has determined you may continue to serve on the URC provided:

1. You abstain from any and all voting regarding any property owner who has contributed money toward a feasibility study.
2. You abstain from any and all voting regarding any property owner who was solicited to contribute money toward subsidizing a feasibility study.
3. You abstain from any and all voting regarding XXXXXXXX [your business].
4. You abstain from any and all voting regarding the techniques and methods employed by XXXXXXXX [your business].
5. You abstain from any and all voting regarding The Gateway Project (Swiss Bank), Canterbury Green, and the "Hole in the Ground."
6. Additionally, if the URC issues to an organization a "Memo of Understanding" or similar document which refers to a desire to have the organization use this environmentally sound procedure, then you must abstain from any voting with regard to this organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 19-4 of the Code of Ethics states "[n]o officer or employee shall engage in any business or transaction or have an interest, directly or indirectly, which is in conflict with or incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties or might influence or impair his or her independence of judgment and action in the performance of said duties."

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In the event of any vote involving any matter which might lead in the future to the employment of the services of XXXXXXXXXXXX [your business], or of you individually, you must return to the Board of Ethics for an advisory opinion in this regard.

This opinion is binding on the Board of Ethics unless amended or revoked, and reliance on this opinion in good faith is an absolute defense in 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 many years of service to the City of Stamford.

Very truly yours,

Amy J. LiVolsi  
Chairman, Board of Ethics

cc: Attorney Howard Kaplan  
Dr. Mel Grove  
Attorney Bruce Goldberg  
Ms. Lois Point-Briant (redacted copy)