

Board of Ethics
City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 10152
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

March 25, 1997

Thomas M. Cassone, Director of Legal Affairs
888 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 10152
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

Re: Stamford City Code Section 19-14(C)(3) / Proposed Mayoral Mission to Israel

Dear Attorney Cassone:

On March 12, 1997, the Board of Ethics unanimously found that the proposed mayoral mission to Israel, sponsored by the United Jewish federation of Stamford, would not violate Section 19-14(C)(3) of The Stamford City Code of Ethics.

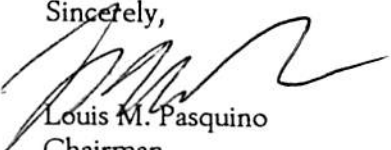
Section 19-14(C)(3) of the Code states that "an officer or employee should not solicit or accept any gift, form of service, compensation or anything of value other than that provided for his or her office..." In view of the nature of the proposed trip as set forth in your memorandum of February 21, 1997, to wit: meeting with government, business and educational leaders, briefing on the middle east peace process and Israel's political trade and economic development efforts, visiting senior political leaders, recent political immigrants and schools, it seems that the primary nature of this proposed trip is to enhance the image of the City of Stamford as a global community and therefore falls under the purview of the mayor's office as the Cities symbolic representative.

Additionally, In light of the fact that the city does not fund the U.J.F. in any way, other than tax exemptions it may receive under the law, and it does not participate in any programs which require the mayors approval, the donation does not seem to be designed to influence the proper judgment or action of the mayor in a matter within his or her authority.

In accordance with Section 14(C)(1) of Ordinance 706 Supplemental, this opinion is binding upon the Board and yourself 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.

The Board thanks you for taking the time and effort to request an advisory opinion in advance of undertaking a transaction.

Sincerely,



Louis M. Pasquino
Chairman

cc: Lois Pont-OBriant, Town Clerk