

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen
Anne's
County*

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Advisory Opinion from December 21, 2009.

The Ethics Commission considered the facts that were provided regarding the formation of a YMCA committee and its applicability to the County Public Ethics Law.

The Commission determined that from the information provided and the tasks of the group, it does not appear that the committee was designed consciously to include stakeholders that would have inherent conflicts of interest, as in the case, for instance, of the comprehensive plan citizens advisory committee, which would make the conflicts provisions of the ethics ordinance inapplicable. Nor do they have decision making authority, which would make the conflicts, gifts and financial disclosure provisions fully applicable. In this context, the committee shall be subject to the conflicts of interest and gifts sections of the Ethics Law, through § 8-5 E.

Additionally, if the Committee deals with land use, zoning, or acquisitions functions, as part of the "site planning" that you described, the members would be required to submit financial disclosure filings, under § 8- 13 C. It was unclear to the Ethics Commission from the facts you provided whether the committee would be involved in such issues.

Advisory Opinion 09-16