

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen
Anne's
County*

The Liberty Building
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland 21617

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Tina Miles, Clerk
Lynn Knight, Attorney

The Ethics Commission

Robert Mueller, Esquire, Chairman
Kendall Ruffatto, Esquire
Reverend Nanese A. Hawthorne
Benjamin C. Tilghman, Jr.
Harold O. Wilson
~~Neal Jackson, Esquire, alternate~~

January 11, 2011

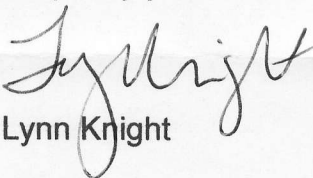
Mary Campbell, President
Ethics Matters, Inc.
PO Box 93
Centreville, MD 21617

RE: QAC Ethics Commission
Request for Clarification of Complaint No. 10-01

Dear Mrs. Campbell:

The Ethics Commission has received and reviewed the Request for Clarification in Complaint 10-01 dated December 9, 2010. At its meeting on January 10, 2011, the Ethics Commission adopted the enclosed clarification of the word "recusal" as used in Complaint 10-01, other Advisory Opinions, and Complaints issued by the Ethics Commission.

Very truly yours,


Lynn Knight

LK/bl

Enclosure

cc: QAC Ethics Commission
Tina Miles, Clerk
Jeffrey Thompson, Esquire

Ethics Commission's Clarification of "Recusal"

January 11, 2011

The Queen Anne's County Ethics Commission adopts this clarification of the term "recusal," which means to disqualify oneself entirely from all aspects of the consideration of the relevant matter. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Excusing oneself from the room whenever the relevant matter is under discussion and whenever any vote of any kind is taken on the relevant matter by a county board or commission;
- Not engaging in any conversation, informal or casual or otherwise, with any person or persons who are members of the county board or commission;
- Not engaging in any conversation with any County office or staff member relating to the relevant matter; and
- Not taking any other action that fairly may be construed as intending to or tending to affect the consideration of and decision on the relevant matter by the county board or commission.
- Assuring that any actions or conversations with persons other than members or staff support of the county board or commission be in a context in which that person affirmatively takes steps to ensure that the other persons clearly understand that he/she is speaking as a private citizen and not as a member of the county board or commission and that he/she is not reflecting the views of the members of the county board or commission.