

[Advisory Opinion 1995-9]

MEMORANDUM

TO: [Name1 withheld]
Germantown Investigative Section

FROM: Barbara McNally
Executive Secretary, Ethics Commission

SUBJECT: Donations of Computer Equipment

Date April 16, 1995

The Ethics Commission has received and reviewed your request for approval to accept a donation from the Hughes Network System in Gaithersburg, MD. You have provided the following information to the Commission:

The Hughes Network has recently pledged a computer system and training to the Germantown Investigative Section which is housed within the Germantown District Police Station. The computer is a Hewlett Packard 286 with supporting screen and keyboard. Hughes has also pledged to offer word processing training at their facility.

In a phone conversation with me, you indicated that there was no solicitation of the Hughes Network to make this donation and that they are donating this equipment freely and with no expectations. In addition, you indicated that the donation is being made to the Germantown Investigative Section for use by the Germantown District detectives for criminal warrant management and word processing.

In considering your request, the Commission reviewed Section 19A-16(e) removing unsolicited gifts to a County agency from the prohibitions of Section 19A(c) which concerns accepting gifts under certain circumstances. Therefore, the Police Department is free to accept the donation.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Ethics Commission and please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions concerning this or any other matter.

BMM:bmcn