

[Advisory Opinion 1996-9]

May 30, 1996

[Name1 withheld]

Dear [Name1 withheld]:

The Ethics Commission has considered your letter of April 4, 1996, in which you seek a waiver pursuant to Section 19A-8 of the County Ethics Code. You advised us that you are the owner of a small business in Silver Spring and that you are active as president of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce. You also informed us that you are a member of the County's Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and are concerned that the ethics law may impose some restrictions on your activities.

Recently you agreed to offer positive comments about the Gazette Newspapers for use in an advertising campaign. None of the advertisements identified you as a member of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. Instead, you were identified as the president of a private business. The quotations in the advertisement related only to your business activities. As you have explained, you have not used your County position or title to benefit improperly yourself or another. The advertisements related solely to your private activities. Accordingly, you do not need a waiver of Article 19A-14 of the Montgomery County Code.

Thank you for your inquiry. We hope that you find this letter responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Laurie B. Horvitz, Chair

LBH/jlw