

[Advisory Opinion 1997-2]

February 11, 1997

[Name1 withheld]

Dear [Name1 withheld]:

At its last meeting, the Ethics Commission reviewed your letter of December 13, 1996 regarding your appointment as the school system's representative to the Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Group. This group was established by the County Council to refer applications for cellular towers/monopoles to the agencies who make decisions regarding the applications.

You have disclosed that you own stock valued at \$100,000 in Associated Communications, Inc. which was recently acquired by Southwest Bell, the parent of Cellular One. Because Cellular One or Southwest Bell could be potential applicants before your coordinating group, you have asked for advice from the Ethics Commission to avoid any conflicts of interest.

The Ethics Commission noted that your interest in Associated Communications, Inc. is monetarily substantial. In light of this large interest, the Commission concluded that you should not discuss or vote on any applications related to Southwest Bell or Cellular One. See Section 19A-11 of the Montgomery County Ethics Code.

The Commission trusts that this letter is responsive to your request. Please contact our office if you have further questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Barbara McNally

Executive Secretary