

W-90-11 [Waiver 1990-11]

August 3, 1990

Ms. Barbara Norland
[Address withheld]

Dear Ms. Norland:

The Montgomery Ethics Commission has reviewed your request to be permitted to become a member of the board of the Literacy Council of Montgomery County.

As a member of the board of the Literacy Council, you will be-director-at-large. The responsibilities associated with that post are:

- 1) overseeing policies of the Council;
- 2) deciding and voting on the Council's budget and spending of funds; and
- 3) fund raising activities.

The Literacy Council presently contracts with the Montgomery County Department of Libraries, the department for which you work.

The Commission has determined that your participation on the Literacy Council without a waiver is prohibited and will require a waiver of Section 19A-11(a)(2)(A) of the Ethics Law.

In considering your request the Commission has determined that the contract with the Literacy Council provides funding to the Council to train tutors who will teach reading at different libraries throughout the county. You have indicated that this contract is monitored by Nancy Canada, Special Needs Library Regional Administrator, and that you have no authority or responsibility for this contract in your county job.

In consideration of the above and because the Commission believes that:

- 1) the best interests of the county would be served by granting you the waiver;
- 2) the importance to the county of your performing your duties outweighs the actual or potential harm of any conflict of interest; and
- 3) granting the waiver will not give you an unfair advantage over other members of the public.

The Commission has granted this waiver with the condition that you do not participate in any discussions or voting on any matters that involve the Montgomery County Government contracts with the Literacy Council. Further, the Commission refers you to the enclosed section of the public ethics law, Section 19A-16(a) regarding the solicitation

of gifts. Please review this carefully and contact the Commission office if you have any questions.