

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen
Anne's
County*

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Advisory Opinion of March 16, 2009

The Ethics Commission discussed an advisory opinion request regarding a potential conflict of interest of a member (or members) of the Animal Control Commission if that member also was a board member of an animal rescue league or the like. The Commission reviewed the request at a meeting on February 26, 2009 and further on March 16, 2009. The Commission considered the facts that were provided regarding a possible conflict of interest from an e-mail of January 23, 2009 and discussions with the individual who requested the opinion at their meeting on February 26, 2009.

The Commission determined that there would be a perception of a violation of the County Public Ethics Law, specifically §8-11 A(7) if any member of the Animal Control Commission who was also a member on the board of an animal rescue league or the like sought preferential treatment from the Department of Animal Control for that animal rescue league that they represent. The Commission determined that an informed member of the public could reasonably believe that they intentionally would be using the prestige of their office or maybe even confidential information for the private gain of their other affiliated group.

Advisory Opinion 09-02