

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



Queen  
Anne's  
County

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**The Ethics Commission**  
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Advisory Opinion from February 25, 2019

The Ethics Commission considered a request for an Advisory Opinion regarding a County Commissioner's employment with ServPro and a possible contract with the QAC Housing Authority for mold remediation and whether there could be a conflict of interest and a violation of the County Public Ethics Law for him to vote if the Housing Authority came to the County for funding for the services his company would be providing.

Based on the facts that were provided, the Commission determined there would be a violation of the County Public Ethics Law, specifically §8-11 (A) (d) if ServPro received the contract with the Housing Authority and the Housing Authority came to the County for funding. To cure that violation, the County Commissioner would have to recuse himself from participating in the discussion and vote.

If the Housing Authority came to the County for funding of this project *before* awarding a contract, he would similarly need to recuse himself from discussion and the vote because of the potential that the contract may be awarded to his employer. The Commission determined in that circumstance, there would be an appearance of a violation under §8-11 (A) (8), in that an informed member of the public reasonably could perceive that he could use the prestige of his position to benefit himself.

Advisory Opinion 19-01

