



COLLEGE PARK ETHICS COMMISSION

Advisory Opinion 88-1

The Ethics Commission has been asked for an advisory opinion as to whether or not a conflict of interest exists for a College Park businessman who is a member of the College Park Economic Development Committee and of the College Park Design Review Board, and who expects to be named as a Director of a new bank locating in College Park.

Section 19-1 of the Code of Ethics of the City of College Park makes the College Park Ethics Ordinance applicable to all members appointed to City of College Park boards, commissions and committees. Section 19-3 of the Ordinance enumerates the conflict of interest prohibitions of the Ordinance. If any part of that section were applicable, it would be subsections 7 and 8, which prohibit one from using the prestige of their office (that is, serving on a committee) for their own benefit or that of another; or to use confidential information acquired in the official City position for their own benefit or that of another.

The possibility of a conflict of interests theoretically exists for any College Park businessman who may serve on the Economic Development Committee or Design Review Board, whether he be a bank director, lawyer or trade merchant. The measure of whether or not an actual conflict of interest exists must be viewed against the specific facts of each situation. If it appears that an actual conflict of interest exists or is likely to exist, then that committee member must disclose it to the committee and decline to participate on that given matter.

Based upon the foregoing, it was the unanimous opinion of the College Park Ethics Commission that there does not appear to be any conflict of interest in the mere action of the businessman serving on the City committees and also as a bank director.

Harry Grayson
Mary Hollomand
Robert Smaldore, Chairman
College Park Ethics Commission