

Ethics Commission
Advisory Opinion 99-1

By request of the [REDACTED], the Ethics Commission was asked whether or not [REDACTED] could serve on both the Local Development Corporation (LDC) and the Advisory Planning Commission (APC). [REDACTED] serves on a sub-committee of the LDC and has been appointed to the APC.

The Executive Summary of the LDC and Article IV of the College Park City code show that the LDC and the APC serve essentially the same goals. Both organizations are responsible for planning and achieving long range development and redevelopment within the city. The duty of the APC is to devise a comprehensive, long range plan for future development (City code 15-19A). The duty of the LDC is to implement these and other ideas in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the University of Maryland master plan.

According to City Code 15-21, APC members should:

have a city wide perspective relative to planning-related issues. Members shall have a track record of civic-mindedness from work on other city projects or committees, an interest in planning and some knowledge of the planning process and related laws and procedures.

As a member of the Housing Revitalization Sub-Committee of the LDC and as the president of the Old Town Civic Association, [REDACTED] should be a welcome addition to the APC. The objective of both organizations is to plan and implement changes for the betterment of the City of College Park. It should be noted that the LDC serves both the City and the University while the APC serves the City alone. The objectives of the City and the University do not always coincide. In such matters, individuals should refer to City Code Chapters 15-24 and 38.11 as concerns conflict of interest and recuse themselves from any matters where such action may be appropriate.