THE CHARTER BOARD OF THE CITY OF READING

IN RE:	Whether City Council is a part-time body?	:	Request Filed: October 20, 2009
		:	Advisory Opinion No. 17

ADVISORY OPINION

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND QUESTION PRESENTED

By letter of October 20, 2009 the President of Reading's City Council, Vaughn D. Spencer, ("Spencer") requested that the City of Reading Charter Board ("Board") issue an advisory opinion. The question presented by Spencer, and thus by this advisory opinion is whether City Council's legislative obligations and functions are defined by Article II of the Charter as part-time?

The Board answers in the negative.

II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

No provision of the Charter specifically defines or restricts the duties of Reading's City Council as part-time. Nevertheless, there are indications within the Charter that City Council is not a full-time position. For instance, Charter § 204 provides that Council members' salaries are to be "nominal" and that they may not receive benefits except for legitimate reimbursements related to their office. Likewise, the Charter does not define City Council's duties as being of a full time nature.

III. OPINION OF THE BOARD

The Opinion of the Board is that the Charter does not define the role of City Council members as part-time.

CITY OF READING CHARTER BOARD

By: Susan T. Gibson
Susan Gibson, Chair

Date: November 5, 2009