



CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

BOARD OF ETHICS
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READING, PA 19603-1371

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REV. TONY PEREZ, VICE CHAIR
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CITY OF READING

BOARD OF ETHICS

ADVISORY OPINION

98-5

A. FACTS

Pursuant to Section 10 of the City of Reading Code of Ethics, the Board of Ethics is authorized, upon the written request of any public official or city employee, to render advisory opinions concerning matters of governmental ethics and to consider questions as to ethical conduct, conflicts of interest and the application of the ethical standards set forth in the Code of Ethics.

The Board of Ethics has received a written request from Russell W. Scianna, Esquire, City Solicitor to issue an advisory opinion concerning private sector employment of former city employees. According to Mr. Scianna's letter, as city employees leave the city, certain employees are entering employment in the private sector. In some cases, the private sector employers of former city employees may have occasion to deal with the city for any number of reasons. The advisory opinion is sought to clarify whether former employees may represent their new private sector employers in dealing with any department of the city.



B. APPLICABLE CHARTER AND CODE PROVISIONS

It is the opinion of the Board of Ethics that there is nothing in the Charter or the Code of Ethics which applies to this situation.

C. OPINION

It is the opinion of the Board of Ethics that the City of Reading Board of Ethics does not have direct jurisdiction over the issue presented by Mr. Scianna's letter, due to the fact that the Charter and the Code of Ethics are silent on the issue raised by Mr. Scianna.

However, the Board of Ethics would point out that the State Ethics law and the State Ethics Commission do have concurrent jurisdiction over certain city employees and officials, along with the City of Reading Board of Ethics, and therefore it is possible that the issue raised by Mr. Scianna's letter would be within the jurisdiction of the State Ethics Commission. It may be well advised for Mr. Scianna to contact the State Ethics Commission for further inquiry.

Dated: 9-18-98

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By: 
Edmond J. Donerty, Chairman