

February 14, 2002

Re: IO-02-07

You inquired whether -- may serve as an honorary committee chairperson for the foundation's annual dinner to be held on May 2, 2002. The answer is that he may serve, but only in his personal capacity, and not as the county's Intergovernmental Relations Officer or as a Special Assistant to the County Executive. The county's Public Ethics Law, §3-104(a) prohibits an employee from using the title of the employee's office or position for personal gain or for the gain of another. In this case, the use of --'s title would be considered a benefit to your organization. The title may not be used in fundraising or in letters such as the one you sent me, where it might appear as if the county or the county executive is endorsing your organization. However, the name alone, or accompanied by non-county credentials may appear on foundation fund raising literature. The county title and job description may be used for identification purposes only, if for example, you prepare a program with a brief bio for your annual dinner attendees.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to call me any time. I am sorry that I could not get this response to you by February 10 as you requested and I hope that the delay has not caused you any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson