

December 18, 2002

Re: IO-02-150

You inquired whether the members of the county council may interview the current members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals prior to appointing or reappointing members for the next term. Since the county council appoints the members of the board of appeals, it is perfectly legitimate to interview the applicants for the position, including the incumbent members. The ethics law would require only that council members refrain from asking applicants about matters in which council members may have an interest (§3-101) or asking or expressing opinions about pending cases (§3-104). For further guidance regarding the permissible scope of an interview, you may want to consult with your legislative counsel, or with the office of law. In the interest of a quick response, this letter expresses my own opinion. If you would like the ethics commission to review your inquiry or this response, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director