

October 19, 2004

RE: IO-04-88

You inquired whether a county council member may attend a hearing of the county board of appeals as a spectator. You indicated that you were concerned that your attendance could be considered to be an abuse of the prestige of office, since the members of the county council appoint the members of the board of appeals. The ethics law does not prohibit any employee from attending a public hearing or meeting. As long as you are not participating as a witness, and have taken no official position with regard to the matter involved in the hearing, there are no ethics issues raised by your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director