



ETHICS COMMISSION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

June 20, 2007
Re: AO-07-41

You inquired whether you may accept an appointment as a member of the Annapolis City liquor board concurrently with your position as an inspector for the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners. The ethics commission advises that there are no ethics law issues raised by your inquiry. Since each board is wholly independent of each other and functions entirely within separate jurisdictions, there appears to be little possibility of a conflict arising between these positions. Additionally, since both boards operate pursuant to state as opposed to local law, there is little likelihood that there will be any conflict between city and county interests.

You should be aware however, that the county ethics law, §7-5-108, prohibits an employee from disclosing confidential information acquired by reason of the employee's public position for the economic gain of another. This law would prohibit you from using confidential information that you acquire in your county position to benefit another person or entity that may be involved in with the city liquor board.

Additionally, you are encouraged to seek ethics advice in the event that a possible conflict of interest arises with regard to a particular matter. If for example, you are confronted with a matter on the city liquor board involving people or entities with whom you have had previous dealings in the county, you may be prohibited from participating in that matter on behalf of the city liquor board. You should seek ethics advice from both the city and county ethics commissions should such a situation arise.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

By: _____
Betsy K. Dawson, Executive Director