



*Anne Arundel County  
Ethics Commission*

October 19, 2009

*Electronic Mail Only*

Re: AO-09-63

You inquired whether the Public Ethics Law would prohibit you from seeking or accepting secondary employment as a real estate appraiser while you are employed as an operator of the map room for the office of planning and zoning. The ethics commission advises that the ethics law does not prohibit this secondary employment.

In your position as an office support assistant II, you provide assistance to people seeking information on real property in the county. The information, which is available to the public for inspection without a fee, or available to copy for a fee, includes zoning maps, critical area and bog designations, landscaping maps, small area plans, plats, metes and bounds, and other information. Much of this information is currently online and it is expected that within two or so years, it will all be available on the county's website.

Because your position is largely clerical, and because the information is readily available to the public, the ethics commission has concluded that there is no potential for a conflict of interest between your county job and your proposed secondary employment. You should be advised as with any second job, you may not advertise your secondary employment in your county position and you may not refer to your county position in seeking clients of your secondary employment services or in other promotional activities.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have any additional questions, please call the office.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy K. Dawson, Executive Director



