



**Anne Arundel County  
Ethics Commission**

December 16, 2009

***By Electronic Mail Only***

RE: AO-09-73

As an applicant for the vacant county council seat, you have inquired whether it would be a conflict of interest for you, if appointed to the council, to vote on the pending slots zoning legislation. The inquiry has arisen because you are a member and deacon of a church that has hired a lawyer/lobbyist to represent the church in a proposed zoning change that will come before the county council. The same lawyer/lobbyist has also been hired to represent an entity with a conditional license to operate a slots facility at a location that is awaiting the outcome of the pending slots zoning legislation. The ethics commission advises that there is no ethics issue raised by your inquiry and you may participate in the pending slots legislation.

If you are appointed to the vacant seat on the council, the ethics commission<sup>1</sup> will provide you with a more detailed response as soon as possible thereafter. Suffice it to say at the present time, that there is nothing in the ethics law that prohibits you from participating in the slots legislation or that creates the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Thank you for your inquiry.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

/s/

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

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<sup>1</sup> Ethics commission member, Richard L. Hillman, did not participate in the review, consideration or deliberation of this inquiry. Mr. Hillman's wife is one of the applicants for the county council position. Upon her decision to apply for the position, Mr. Hillman withdrew from all ethics commission business pending the outcome of the selection process.