

Municipality of Anchorage



ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY

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Board of Ethics
Municipality of Anchorage
c/o Anchorage Municipal Clerk

24 December 2008

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

As Chair of the Assembly, I anticipate becoming Acting Mayor of Anchorage in early January 2008, when Mark Begich resigns as Mayor to become our next United States Senator.

In early December 2008, I took a leave of absence from Lane Powell LLC, the law firm where I have been employed in 2008. I am not a shareholder and do not have any ownership interest in the firm. During this leave of absence, I will not receive any salary or compensation from Lane Powell LLC during the entire period of time that I serve as Acting Mayor.

Charter Section 17.04 provides that an elected official "may hold no other compensated municipal office or employment." AMC 1.15.025.C.4 provides the ethics rule for the mayor in the context of any contemporaneous employment relationship. Pursuant to the code, the question is whether the mayor is "serving as an employee to another person or entity." While serving as Acting Mayor, I will only serve as an employee of the Municipality of Anchorage. I will not serve as an employee to any other person or entity.

For the reasons set forth above, I am moving forward with the understanding that there is no conflict with serving as Acting Mayor while on an unpaid leave-of-absence from prior employment. I write to ask the Board of Ethics to provide an opinion about whether there is any conflict of interest under the circumstances described above.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Claman', written over a dotted grid background.

Matt Claman
Assembly Chair