



Municipal Board of Ethics

#: 2021 - 08

632 West 6th Ave. Ste. 250 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Meeting Date: 09/15/2021

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 196650 Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

Phone: 343-4311

Municipal Clerk: Barbara A. Jones

CONFIDENTIAL Request for an Advisory Opinion CONFIDENTIAL

Anchorage Municipal Code: Chapter 1.15 CODE OF ETHICS, AMC 1.15.150 Advisory Opinions.

- A. Current, former, or potential **public servant** may request an advisory opinion regarding the applicability and interpretation of this chapter related to actions, rights, or conflict personal to the inquirer.
- B. The municipal clerk, the municipal ombudsman, and the municipal attorney may request an advisory opinion from the board of ethics regarding the applicability and interpretation of this chapter.
- C. In any later proceeding involving the inquirer, the inquirer is entitled to rely on the advice of the board, and may not be sanctioned for acting in compliance with the board's advice so long as the facts remain substantially unchanged from those represented to the board in the inquiry.
- D. **A request for advice is confidential** unless confidentiality is waived by the person requesting an advisory opinion.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Current	<input type="checkbox"/> Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Clerk
<input type="checkbox"/> Former	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> Potential	<input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Ombudsman

AMC 1.15.030D. **Public Servants** - all persons within the scope of this code, including employees, board members, and elected officials.

In accordance with AMC 1.15, I am requesting applicability and interpretation of the following **section of the Municipal Code of Ethics:** 1.15.060 Conflicts of Interest

Please describe your request:

Mr. Ron Thompson was recently appointed to a position within Building Services.

Attached is an outline provided by Mr. Thompson including information about both his past and present business ownership interests as well as those of his immediate family members.

I have filed this in my capacity as the Deputy Municipal Attorney. The Board is requested to review this information for conflicts and recommendations.

(Attach separate sheets as necessary.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waive Confidentiality	<input type="checkbox"/> I Request Confidentiality
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I understand that advisory opinions are required to be posted on the Municipal Website. The Board shall make sufficient deletions to prevent disclosure of the persons who have requested anonymity. AMC 1.15.150F. **I affirm to the best of my knowledge that my statement is true, correct, and complete.**

Signature of Requestor: Deitra Ennis Date: 9-14-21

Printed Name: Deitra Ennis Phone Number: (907) 343-4349

Email Address: ennisdl@muni.org

Mailing Address: _____

The following is a description of what I understand my role at the MOA is and my past involvement with many companies that will continue to use services within the department I am the Director of.

My name is Ron Thompson, P.E. and I am a licensed Mechanical Engineer within the State of Alaska. I began my career in Anchorage as a Mechanical Engineer for FPE/Roen Engineers, Inc., which is currently called PDC Engineers, Inc. In 1994, I was hired away from FPE/Roen to work as a Mechanical Plan Reviewer for the Municipality of Anchorage. Over the course of the next 22 years, I became more and more educated in the permitting and development processes and grew through the organization from Plan Reviewer, to Senior Plan Reviewer, to Building Official, to Development Services Director/Building Official, and finally to the Public Works Director until 2015 when Mayor Berkowitz chose not to retain my services.

In 2015, along with Kayli Thompson-Rabung, my daughter, we incorporated Scope Permitting and Engineering, LLC as 50-50 partners. We began helping clients throughout the State of Alaska with Permitting and Engineering services with the majority being within the Municipality of Anchorage. We provided Project Management, Land Use Consulting, Mechanical Engineering and Permitting Services to Contractors, Architects, Engineers, Owners, and all citizens of Anchorage. Because of my 22 years of experience and reputation within the industry in Anchorage, Scope Permitting and Engineering, LLC did not advertise nor solicit work. Word of mouth was our sole marketing approach which contributed to the exponential growth for Scope. Scope has performed work for many, if not all, local Contractors, Architects and Engineers, as well as a large number outside of Anchorage. They retained our services because of our knowledge and experience in the permitting process. In the first few years, I played a large role in training Kayli to become the best in the industry at helping everyone obtain permits for construction. About two years after we started, we hired Tyler Thompson, my son and Kayli's brother, upon his return from college. At this time, Kayli trained Tyler as she was handling 100% of all permitting and had become the local expert in obtaining permitting in an accurate and timely manner. Soon after, Tyler joined the company as a 20% partner and Kayli and I went to 40% partners.

In Spring of 2021, I was contacted by Mayor-Elect Bronson about helping his team create a more streamlined permitting and development system within the Municipality. He and many others recommended that I return to the MOA and use my experience and knowledge to help make permitting easier. I was honored and took that challenge seriously and accepted the position of Building Services Director.

Consequently, I felt I needed to resign and relinquish all involvement and ownership of Scope Permitting and Engineering, LLC. That took place prior to July 1, 2021 (my official start date). This also meant the remaining owners of Scope (Kayli and Tyler) had to change their corporation's name and services offered, as they would no longer have a licensed Engineer partner. I removed my license from the Corporation, and they changed their name to Scope Permitting Plus, LLC. I have no ownership stake and all of the miscellaneous ties with my license and the corporation have had the paperwork submitted and is either complete or in the process of being finalized with the State of Alaska.

As a result of my new role at the Municipality, I have divested all interest and severed all ties with the corporation to prevent any perceived conflict of interest with my children who continue to permit building permits within the MOA as well as all my past and present clients.

At the MOA, we have developed and organized a new Org Chart that has my position managing the Development Services Director/Building Official and the Planning Director. I see my position as oversight of the entire process rather than any real day-to-day decision making. I have not made a single technical decision since I was hired on July 1. I have looked for ways to streamline and develop better options for permitting for everyone that submits documents and needs the services for development in Anchorage. The Planning Director and the Development Services Director typically make the day-to-day technical decisions along with the support of their staff. The normal and consistent approach to technical decision-making in the department comes from the bottom up and not from the top down. Therefore, the Director at the top is almost never consulted on technical issues from the public, our staff do so competently. The Directors create and direct policies that allow consistent and codified approaches to administer the code properly and efficiently to everyone. Based upon my experience and my previous involvement as Director, my actions showed that everyone is treated consistently and fairly. Special treatment cannot exist. If a process that streamlines things needs to be generated, it was written for everyone not any one person or one company. This is proven by the fact that 80% of all Development Services Policies that exist today still had my name on them even though I had not been the Director/Building Official for over a decade.

I feel that almost everyone that comes in to get a permit has dealt with me either when I was at the MOA before or when I owned Scope Permitting and Engineering, LLC., so it is imperative that I have to remain professional, interpret all issues with respect to code language and make sure my actions remove all doubt with respect to ethics and conflicts of interest. I did so in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

I contacted Dee Ennis for her review, and she recommended discussing this with the Ethics Board to ensure we have done everything we can to make sure there are no conflicts and/or ethics issues with my appointment by perception or actions. I feel 100% confident I can perform the duties of my position without creating any ethics violations and refrain from having any conflicts of interest. I just want to help everyone in our town have consistent, legal, and honest development.

In addition, for the projects that I worked on during my time with Scope Permitting and Engineering, LLC. that are in the permitting process currently, I have informed my supervisor, Adam Trombley, and Bob Doehl, the Building Official, about them and will make no decisions or actions on them as I have referred them all to Bob Doehl.

Sincerely,

Ron Thompson