



Municipal Board of Ethics

2020 - 2

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

Meeting Date: 2020-0611

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

Phone: 343-4311

Municipal Clerk: Barbara A. Jones

Request for an Advisory Opinion

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current | <input checked="" 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: Conflict of Interest Issues

Please describe your request:

See attached e-mail

(Attach separate sheets as necessary.)

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waive Confidentiality | <input type="checkbox"/> I Request Confidentiality |
|---|--|

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: Dee Ennis Date: JUN 10, 2020

Printed Name: Dee Ennis, Deputy Muni Attorney/Ethics Officer Phone Number: (907) 4349 - 4349

Email Address: Deitra.Ennis@AnchorageAK.Gov

Mailing Address: _____

From: [Ennis, Deitra L.](#)
To: [Veneklasen, Jennifer O.](#)
Subject: FW: For Review: Potential Conflict of Interest Question (Green Bank)
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 11:58:27 AM

Angel Fund Request for Advisory Opinion

From: Morrison, Joe N. <joe.morrison@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Ennis, Deitra L. <deitra.ennis@anchorageak.gov>
Cc: Slivka, Alexander H. <alexander.slivka@anchorageak.gov>; Stephen Trimble <strimble@arcticsolarventures.com>; Baca, Erin <erin.baca@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: For Review: Potential Conflict of Interest Question (Green Bank)

Ethics Officer:

I hope you and yours are well in these challenging times. I have an ethics question revolving around 49SAF's need to develop and subsequently evaluate an upcoming investment opportunity and how that intersects with conflict of interest provisions at the Municipality.

Introduction:

49SAF has approximately \$1 million verbally returned to us by our fund managers due to the COVID crisis. We have stated our interest is to deploy this capital more aggressively given Alaska's economic condition. Given the overall funding landscape, the question is how to do this effectively and best.

One project likely to come before 49SAF for funding consideration is a "Green Bank," in line with the Municipality of Anchorage's climate action plan. This public-private partnership would enable property owners to receive loans to pay for energy efficiency upgrades. While the amount sought is not yet defined, we estimate probably around \$1 million in capital would be sought from 49SAF for investment in such an entity.

At issue:

A 49th State Angel Fund advisory committee member (Steven Trimble, cc'd) will likely either advise or help as part of the MOA team to conduct research, engage stakeholders, and create a proposed investment structure for such a "Green Bank" project. That will be subsequently reviewed by 49SAF in one of our regular meetings.

Since Mr. Trimble owns Arctic Solar Ventures, Alaska's largest solar integrator, he acknowledged in our May 20 committee meeting that should such a proposal emerge, he may be conflicted. Such a project, if funded by the 49SAF and also successful, could theoretically drive increased business to Arctic Solar Ventures, as it would enable increased capital to pay for energy efficient upgrades by property owners.

49SAF believes this does not present a conflict of interest per our program's federal

guidance. While that guidance does hinge around “personal financial interests,” that term is specifically defined as investment into a company or fund in owned by an Insider (in this case Mr. Trimble). More specifically: Investing in Mr. Trimble’s company, Arctic Solar Ventures, would be a clear conflict of interest violation since he is an Advisory Committee member; investing in a Green Bank project which might or might not benefit his company would not. The 49SAF has no concerns about the appearance of conflict of interest in this case.

From here, our process: Mr. Trimble will help advise upon and formulate a Green Bank proposal. Then, should such a “Green Bank” investment proposal be formalized by the team and submitted to the 49SAF for investment evaluation, Mr. Trimble will recuse himself from that discussion and vote.

Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns.