



# CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Craig A. Moe  
Mayor

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April 10, 2019

Mr. James Hester, Chairman  
City of Laurel Ethics Commission  
8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707

Dear Chairman Hester,

I write to ask for your review and consideration of a matter of possible conflict of interest.

As stated in the Laurel City Code, Section 310- City Council and Section 316-General Powers of the City Council are listed below.

## **Sec. 310. - City Council.**

City Councilmembers shall be persons of known integrity, experience and sound judgment, not less than twenty-one (21) years of age, citizens of the United States, registered to vote in City elections and residents of the City and the ward for which they seek election for one (1) year (three hundred sixty-five (365) days) immediately preceding the date of their election. Each Councilmember shall hold his or her office for two (2) years from the date of the second regular meeting after the election in November of the year of his or her election and until the qualification of his or her successor. A Councilmember shall remain a resident of the city, within the ward from which they were elected and must remain a registered voter within such ward, unless elected at-large, while holding office.

## **Sec. 316. - General Powers.**

The City Council shall have the power:

To pass all such ordinances, resolutions or regulations not contrary to the constitution and laws of the State of Maryland or this Charter as it may deem necessary for the good government of the City; for the protection and preservation of the City's property, rights, and privileges; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing persons and property from violence, danger or destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the residents of and visitors in the city.

To pass ordinances not contrary to the laws and constitution of this state, for the specific purposes provided in the remaining subsections of this section of the ordinance in such cases provided.

**Appropriations:** To appropriate municipal moneys for any purpose within the powers of the Council.

**Pensions:** To provide by ordinance for a retirement or pension system or a group insurance plan for the officers and employees of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel or to provide for including the officers and employees of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel in any retirement or pension

system operated by or in conjunction with the state, or on such terms and conditions as state laws may prescribe.

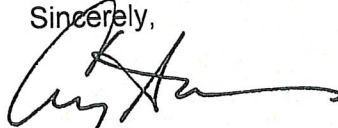
For the past several years I have been working on a plan to provide for a one-time Cost of Living adjustment for the City of Laurel's retirees. In the meantime, the citizens of Laurel have elected a former City employee to the Laurel City Council.

I am now prepared to present Pension Plan changes to the members of the Laurel City Council, and need some direction with regard to the current sitting member who will gain from the possible enhancements to the pension system. I hesitate to provide him the information as I feel I would place him in a very bad position as well as a conflict of interest since he would gain from these revisions.

I ask that you and the Ethics Commission review this concern and provide me with the proper direction in which to handle this matter. I have attached the entire portion of the City code that deals with the City Council.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need other information from me.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Moe  
Mayor

Attachment

cc: William F. Goddard, III, City Administrator  
Lou Ann Crook, Deputy City Administrator  
Sara Green, Chief of Staff