



**WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
COLE & BIERMAN**

AT THE CROSSROADS OF BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT & THE LAW

MEMORANDUM

To: Margaret Brown, City Commissioner, City of Weston

From: Jamie A. Cole, City Attorney, City of Weston

Date: March 13, 2016

**Re: Ethics Training
CAO : 17-W03 (Reporting Requirements)**

**cc: City Commission
City Manager**

You attended four hours of live ethics training from our office on November 14, 2016 at City Hall (1 hour) and on March 7, 2017 (3 hours) in the office of the City Attorney. You ask whether the training sessions that you attended satisfies the ethics training requirement for newly elected officials set forth in the Broward County Ethics Ordinance.

Due to the fact the four hours of ethics training were completed within 120 days from the date you took office, were conducted by the City Attorney and covered the topics of Sunshine Law, public records and public service ethics, you have satisfied the four-hour ethics training standard established by the revised local ethics ordinance for newly elected officials. Finally, in order to comply with the reporting requirement under the ordinance, please file a form with the city clerk within fifteen days from March 7, 2017 certifying that you completed the public service ethics training for newly elected officials. The certification should include the date of the sessions, the number of hours completed and the mode of the session (live).

This Opinion is provided pursuant to Subsection 8 of the County Ethics Code, which allows an Elected Official to request an advisory opinion about how the Code applies to his or her own situation. "Requests for opinions shall state all material facts necessary for the advising attorney to understand the circumstances and render a complete and correct opinion, and such facts shall be recited in the issued opinion."

In addition, "until amended or revoked, an advisory opinion rendered pursuant to this section shall be binding on the conduct of the Elected Official covered by the opinion unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for advisory opinion. If the Elected Official acts in accordance with a binding advisory opinion, the Elected Official's conduct may not be found to be in violation of the Broward County Elected Official Code of Ethics. However, any opinion rendered under this section shall not be binding as to whether the Elected Official's action complies with state or federal ethics requirements."

Assuming that you have disclosed all pertinent facts to us, you may use this opinion as a "safe harbor" under the Broward County Ethics Ordinance should any questions arise concerning the Opinion provided herein.

If you need any additional guidance regarding this matter, please contact us.



Jamie A. Cole
City Attorney

Jamie Alan Cole

From: Margaret Brown <mbrown@westonfl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:11 PM
To: Jamie Alan Cole
Subject: Ethics Requirements

Jamie - Based on my meeting and training regarding ethics as an elected official, on March 7, 2017, I am writing to inquire if I have satisfied the necessary requirements for my role as Commissioner for the City of Weston. Best regards - Peggy



Margaret Brown
City Commissioner

P: (954) 385-2000
www.westonfl.org

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