



WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE & BIERMAN

AT THE CROSSROADS OF BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT & THE LAW

Memorandum

To: Margaret Brown, Commissioner, City of Weston

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

Date: January 17, 2019

Re: Annual Ethics Training
CAO : 19-W03 (Reporting Requirements)

cc: City Commission
City Manager

You attended a three-hour live ethics training session on September 24, 2018 and a one-hour live session on December 28, 2018. The September session was conducted by attorneys in my office and was held at City Hall and the December session was a one-on-one session with me in Fort Lauderdale. You wish to know whether the workshops that you attended satisfy the ethics training requirement contained in the Broward County Ethics Ordinance.

Due to the fact the ethics workshops covered public service ethics and totaled four hours, you have satisfied the four-hour ethics training standard established by the local ethics ordinance. Finally, in order to comply with the reporting requirement under the ordinance, please file a form with the city clerk within thirty days after the end of the calendar year (by January 30, 2019) certifying that you participated in the public service ethics workshop and have met the four-hour ethics training requirement for the applicable time period. The certification should include the date of the sessions, the number of hours completed and the mode of the sessions.


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

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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