

Donna Conkling

From: Mayor
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 2:28 PM
To: mrvassoc
Cc: Trustee Lewis; Trustee Veron; Trustee Ross; Trustee Waldman; Trustee Crandall; Trustee Arest; Donna Conkling; Steve Pappalardo; Daniel Pozin
Subject: Re : Board of Ethics (6)

Mayra,

As you know, we all pay McCarthy Fingar's fees and McCarthy Fingar pays Mr. Pozin. As you also know, McCarthy Fingar is a professional law firm with its own ethical standards.

Marc

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2020, at 2:09 PM, mrvassoc <mrvassoc@yahoo.com> wrote:

CAUTION: External sender.

Thank you for writing. Who pays Attorney Pozin's salary and McCarthy Fingar's fees?

Regards,
Mayra

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Date: 3/5/20 14:01 (GMT-05:00)
To: "Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates" <mrvassoc@yahoo.com>
Cc: Trustee Lewis <jlewis@scarsdale.com>, Trustee Veron <jveron@scarsdale.com>, Trustee Ross <ross@scarsdale.com>, Trustee Waldman <rwaldman@scarsdale.com>, Trustee Crandall <lcrandall@scarsdale.com>, Trustee Arest <jarest@scarsdale.com>, Donna Conkling <dconkling@scarsdale.com>, Steve Pappalardo <spappalardo@scarsdale.com>, Daniel Pozin <dpozin@mccarthyfingar.com>
Subject: Re : Board of Ethics (5)

Mayra,

I forwarded your email to the Village Attorney, Dan Pozin. After review by Dan and another member of McCarthy Fingar's municipal practice area, it was determined that none of the specific instances that you questioned in your emails constitute conflicts of interest or ethics violations under Village Code.

I have also asked Dan and McCarthy Fingar to perform a general review of the Village Code sections relating to ethics, including comparisons to other comparable municipalities' ethics codes.

Best,

Marc

On Mar 3, 2020, at 6:29 AM, Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates <mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>> wrote:

CAUTION: External sender.
Good morning,

I hope that you all are doing well. I look forward to an update on what reforms of the Board of Ethics will take place and when. How is it appropriate that the Campaign Chair of your party, the Scarsdale Citizens Non-Partisan Party is on the Board of Ethics?

The Board of Ethics should be independent of Village personnel and Village officials. Right now if a resident wants a conflict of interest or ethics issue investigated, the Board of Ethics cannot do anything unless the Board of Trustees asks for such an investigation. How is this an example of good governance?

And no trustee or mayor who contributed to the library capital campaign or who ran the fund raising efforts should in any way now be involved in auditing anything related to the library renovation or its finances. Again, this is not a good example of good governance.

Mayors and Trustees should not ever appoint their spouses and siblings to Village councils and committees. With the incredible number of highly educated residents in our beautiful Village, there is a lot of talent that can be deployed in these committees and councils without having to resort to picking relatives. And Ms. Jane Curley should have never been removed from the Board of Assessment Review without any explanation whatsoever. Her level of quantitative and real estate expertise is incredibly impressive. It is unfortunate that patronage is more important than expertise.

Unfortunately, you also never answered my questions about potential conflicts of interest with Freightway. Have any of you ever worked or work with East End Capital, LCOR, or Avalon? When you leave office can you go work with these companies? There should be a rule put in place that Village officials must not work with anyone who gets business from the Village for at least a couple of years. How long did you know that East End Capital was buying up buildings on Garth Road in order to then compete for the Freightway Redevelopment project? These are the kinds of issues that an independent Board of Ethics would be able to investigate. Presently, potential conflicts of interests and questionable auditing practices are not being investigated. Ratings agencies increasingly look at governance and operational risk. Please fix these problems before Moody's takes notice.

Best regards,
Mayra

MRV Associates<<http://www.mrvassociates.com/>>
Senior Forbes Contributor<<http://bit.ly/2Ollplh>>
LinkedIn<<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mrvassociates>>
Twitter<<https://twitter.com/MRVAssociates>>

Tel: +1-212-491-9153

From: mrvassoc <mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com<mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com>>
Cc: Trustee Lewis <jlewis@scarsdale.com<mailto:jlewis@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Veron <jveron@scarsdale.com<mailto:jveron@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Ross <ross@scarsdale.com<mailto:ross@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Waldman <rwaldman@scarsdale.com<mailto:rwaldman@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Crandall <lcrandall@scarsdale.com<mailto:lcrandall@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Arest <jarest@scarsdale.com<mailto:jarest@scarsdale.com>>; Donna Conkling <dconkling@scarsdale.com<mailto:dconkling@scarsdale.com>>; Steve Pappalardo <spappalardo@scarsdale.com<mailto:spappalardo@scarsdale.com>>
Subject: Re: Board of Ethics (4)

Thanks for writing. Would you please provide details and a timeline?

As I wrote a couple of years ago and last week, Scarsdale trustees and mayors have allowed appointing relatives of Board members to committees and councils. How is this appropriate?

How is it appropriate that the Board of Ethics is not independent of Village personnel and the Board of Trustees?

Why are trustees who contributed to the library fundraising or who led the fundraising campaign involved in auditing any financial matters related to the library?

The aforementioned practices are highly irregular and expose Village Hall to a wide range of conflicts of interests.

Regards,
Mayra

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com<mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com>>
Date: 2/28/20 16:49 (GMT-05:00)
To: "Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates"
<mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>>
Cc: Trustee Lewis <jlewis@scarsdale.com<mailto:jlewis@scarsdale.com>>, Trustee Veron
<jveron@scarsdale.com<mailto:jveron@scarsdale.com>>, Trustee Ross
<ross@scarsdale.com<mailto:ross@scarsdale.com>>, Trustee Waldman
<rwaldman@scarsdale.com<mailto:rwaldman@scarsdale.com>>, Trustee Crandall
<lcrandall@scarsdale.com<mailto:lcrandall@scarsdale.com>>, Trustee Arest
<jarest@scarsdale.com<mailto:jarest@scarsdale.com>>, Donna Conkling
<dconkling@scarsdale.com<mailto:dconkling@scarsdale.com>>, Steve Pappalardo
<spappalardo@scarsdale.com<mailto:spappalardo@scarsdale.com>>
Subject: Re: Board of Ethics (3)

Thank you for your email, Mayra. A review of the Village's Ethics Code is in process.

Best,

Marc

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 28, 2020, at 8:18 AM, Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates
<mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>
> CAUTION: External sender.
>
> Good morning,
>
> I wanted to remind you of my email below.
>
> Regards,
> Mayra
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>
> MRV Associates
> Senior Forbes Contributor
> LinkedIn
> Twitter
>
>
> Tel: +1-212-491-9153
>
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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates
<mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>>
> Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:28 AM
> To: 'Mayor' <mayor@scarsdale.com<mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com>>
> Cc: 'Trustee Lewis' <jlewis@scarsdale.com<mailto:jlewis@scarsdale.com>>; 'Trustee Veron'

<jveron@scarsdale.com<mailto:jveron@scarsdale.com>>; 'Trustee Ross'
<ross@scarsdale.com<mailto:ross@scarsdale.com>>; 'Trustee Waldman'
<rwaldman@scarsdale.com<mailto:rwaldman@scarsdale.com>>; 'Trustee Crandall'
<lcrandall@scarsdale.com<mailto:lcrandall@scarsdale.com>>; 'Trustee Arest'
<jarest@scarsdale.com<mailto:jarest@scarsdale.com>>; 'Donna Conkling'
<dconkling@scarsdale.com<mailto:dconkling@scarsdale.com>>; 'Steve Pappalardo'
<spappalardo@scarsdale.com<mailto:spappalardo@scarsdale.com>>
> Subject: RE: Board of Ethics (2)

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> Thank you for writing back. I look forward to hearing from you.

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> Best regards,
> Mayra

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>
> MRV Associates
> Senior Forbes Contributor
> LinkedIn
> Twitter

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> Tel: +1-212-491-9153

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com<mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com>>
> Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:03 AM
> To: Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates
<mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>>
> Cc: Trustee Lewis <jlewis@scarsdale.com<mailto:jlewis@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Veron
<jveron@scarsdale.com<mailto:jveron@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Ross
<ross@scarsdale.com<mailto:ross@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Waldman
<rwaldman@scarsdale.com<mailto:rwaldman@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Crandall
<lcrandall@scarsdale.com<mailto:lcrandall@scarsdale.com>>; Trustee Arest
<jarest@scarsdale.com<mailto:jarest@scarsdale.com>>; Donna Conkling
<dconkling@scarsdale.com<mailto:dconkling@scarsdale.com>>; Steve Pappalardo
<spappalardo@scarsdale.com<mailto:spappalardo@scarsdale.com>>
> Subject: Re: Board of Ethics

>
> Thank you for your email, Mayra. I will respond to your email in more depth in the future.

>
> Marc
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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>> On Feb 19, 2020, at 9:55 AM, Mayra Rodriguez Valladares, MRV Associates
<mrvassoc@yahoo.com<mailto:mrvassoc@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>>
>> CAUTION: External sender.
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>> Good morning,

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>> I trust that you had a good weekend. I write to recommend respectfully that significant changes be made to the Scarsdale Village Board of Ethics. In the Marc, Hochvert, and your administrations, the Board of Trustees has appointed brothers, wives, and your Scarsdale Citizens NonPartisan Party (SCNP) campaign managers to a wide range of important committees and councils. I wrote Mayor Hochvert several times about potential conflict of interest and/or the appearance thereof. He stated that he saw nothing wrong with this practice. When I wrote to the Board of Ethics pointing out these issues, I was surprisingly informed that the Board of Ethics cannot research or look into a matter unless the Board of Trustees makes such a request. I was shocked to learn that this process exists. Shouldn't the Board of Ethics be completely independent of the Board of Trustees and of Village Personnel? How is it possible that the Village Treasurer and a Trustee are in the Board of Ethics? If a Scarsdale resident had concerns about potential conflicts of interest in your administration, budgets, Freightway Redevelopment or any other municipal issues, who can investigate these if the Board of Ethics can only act if you request it? You also have appointed one of your campaign managers to the Board of Ethics. How is this appropriate? She exercised her right to be your campaign manager. How can she be neutral if any matter is brought up before the Board of Trustees, especially related to the library, since she has also been in various roles related to the library?

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>> Additionally, is it appropriate that any current trustee or mayor, who either contributed money to the library renovation or headed the capital campaign for the library renovation, is involved in any way in any matter related to the library, especially an audit of its financial matters? The essence of an auditor is independence.

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>> As a finance professional who works in risk audit and compliance matters, I highly encourage you to make significant changes to the Board of Ethics, so that it is completely independent of Village personnel and the Board of Trustees.

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>> I look forward to hearing from you.

>>

>> Best regards,

>> Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez

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>> MRV Associates

>> Senior Forbes Contributor

>> LinkedIn

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>> Tel: +1-212-491-9153

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