



STATE OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In the Matter of the Request for Opinion
Concerning the Conduct of **Anita Wood**,
North Las Vegas City Councilwoman,
State of Nevada,

Request for Opinion No.: 11-55C

Subject.

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PANEL DETERMINATION

NRS 281A.440(5); NAC 281A.440

Facts and Jurisdiction

The Nevada Commission on Ethics received an Ethics Request for Opinion (RFO) regarding the conduct of Anita Wood, North Las Vegas City Councilwoman, a public officer, alleging certain violations of the Ethics in Government Law set forth in NRS 281A. Commission staff presented the Investigatory Panel with the allegations in the Request for Opinion that Ms. Wood violated NRS 281A.020 and 281A.420 (1) and (3) by failing to keep adequate separation between her public duties and private interests, and failing to fully disclose a conflict of interest and abstain from voting in two instances.

At the time of the alleged conduct, Ms. Wood was an elected member of the North Las Vegas City Council, a public officer as defined in NRS 281A.160. The Commission has jurisdiction over the conduct of public officers pursuant to NRS 281A.280. Therefore, the Commission has jurisdiction in this matter.

Panel Proceeding

On July 28, 2011, pursuant to NRS 281A.440(5), an Investigatory Panel consisting of Commissioners George M. Keele, Esq. and James Shaw reviewed various documents, including the 1) Ethics Request for Opinion; 2) Subject's response to the Ethics Request for Opinion, 3) The Executive Director's Report and Recommendation.

The allegations center on two June 2011 City Council meetings. Specifically, the RFO alleged that on June 15, 2011, Wood opposed the passage of an agenda item regarding canvassing the recent municipal election results. Ms. Wood disclosed on the record that she had made a campaign contribution to a person interested in the matter and that she and her husband volunteered to help the individual campaign for election.

She disclosed that she had sought legal advice from several sources, and all had advised her that she need not disclose her campaign contributions, and that she need not abstain from voting on the issue. She then proceeded to participate and vote. At the next Council meeting, on June 30, 2011, regarding a similar issue, she made a similar disclosure and voted in favor of holding a new election.

The following are the Panel's unanimous findings and conclusions as to each of the allegations. NRS 281A.420 requires disclosure of certain conflicts of interest, but expressly exempts campaign contributions from such requirements. As a result, the Investigatory Panel held that no credible evidence exists to support a finding of just and sufficient cause for the Commission to render an opinion whether Wood violated NRS 281A.020 or 281A.420. The Panel held that no evidence was presented or found that she had any qualifying conflict to require her to make a disclosure or that would subject her to the abstention requirements. As a result, the Panel found that no just and sufficient cause exists for the full Commission to hold a hearing regarding the allegations.

Therefore, the Investigatory Panel will not refer these allegations to the Commission for a hearing and the rendering of an opinion, and dismisses the RFO in its entirety.

Dated: October 3, 2011



Caren Jenkins, Esq.
Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Carson City, Nevada, I deposited for mailing, via U.S. Postal Service, through the State of Nevada mailroom, a true and correct copy of the **PANEL DETERMINATION IN REQUEST FOR OPINION No. 11-55C**, addressed as follows:

Anita Wood
City of North Las Vegas
2222 Constitution Way
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

First Class Mail

Leonard Cardinale
North Las Vegas Police Supervisors
Association
3525 W. Cheyenne, Ste. 102
North Las Vegas, NV 89032

Cert. No.: 7010 0780 0001 0973 5129

DATED: October 4, 2011

Valerie Carter

Valerie Carter, Nevada Commission on Ethics