

STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
SUFFOLK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

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In the Matter of the Inquiry of

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STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY SUFFOLK
COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Advisory Opinion 2018-7

April 4, 2018

NOTICE: THIS ADVISORY OPINION IS SUBJECT TO REVISION OR WITHDRAWAL

Applications requesting its modification, clarification, or withdrawal must be made in accordance with Suffolk County Board of Ethics rules. Unless an application for the revision or withdrawal of an advisory opinion is timely received, it shall become final. Nothing shall prohibit the Suffolk County Board of Ethics, on its own motion, from reconsidering, revising or withdrawing an advisory opinion at any time.

Summary: A Suffolk County Elected Official has inquired if he can accept an invitation to the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., which is a non-for-profit 501(C)(3) minority community based organization incorporated in the State of New York. The invitation is for a reception in the Requestor's honor as the "newly elected ██████████ of Suffolk County".

Analyzed Laws and Rules: The Laws of Suffolk County; Suffolk County Administrative Code XXX, Advisory Opinions; and Suffolk County Code Chapter 77.

Procedural History: Fact finding concluded on 4/3/2018 and the Board vote occurred within the 45 days under Suffolk County Code occurring on 4/4/2018. The Board determined by majority vote that the proposed future conduct is an enumerated exemption in the law and is permissible.

Opinion: A Suffolk County Elected Official has inquired if he can accept an invitation to the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., which is a non-for-profit 501(C)(3) minority community based organization incorporated in the State of New York. The invitation is for a reception in the Requestor's honor as the "newly elected ██████████ of Suffolk County". (*Requestor's Exhibit-1*).

Suffolk County Code, § 77-5, "Exemptions" states:

"This article (prohibited conduct) shall not prohibit:

G. An elected official from accepting an invitation to, and attending and participating in, an event sponsored by a community group or organization."

As the facts presented set forth that, "the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., which is a non-for-profit 501(C)(3) minority community based organization", the Board finds that the invitation fits the enumerated exemption.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the Board finds that pursuant to Suffolk County Code, the requested future conduct, as described herein, is permissible.

Pursuant to Suffolk County Board of Ethics Resolution 004/2013 passed on January 30, 2013, the requester shall have 15 business days from the time this Advisory Opinion has been rendered (excluding Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday) to file a request for reconsideration supported by new material facts submitted to the Board.

The forgoing is the opinion of the Board.

Dated: Great River, New York
4/4/2018

Eric A. Kopp - Chair