



# Milwaukee County Ethics Board

DATE: March 9, 2018

TO: Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Chairman Willie Johnson, Jr., Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and  
General Services Committee  
Supervisor Anthony Staskunas, Vice Chair, Milwaukee County Judiciary,  
Safety and General Services Committee  
Members of the Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services  
Committee  
Interested Parties

FROM: Stephanie Hunnicutt, Executive Director, Ethics Board

RE: Informational Report from the Executive Director, Milwaukee County Ethics  
Board, regarding the Ethics Board's 2017 Annual Report

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## **BACKGROUND**

After review of the 2017 Milwaukee County Ethics Board Annual Report, the Chair of the Milwaukee County Board Supervisors requested a supplemental report discussing the potential applicability of the Ethics Board's 2017 determinations and advisories to Milwaukee County officials and employees.

## **POTENTIAL APPLICABILITY TO MILWAUKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

The Ethics Board is the primary source of interpretation of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code, (Chapter 9 of Milwaukee County General Ordinances) and provides advisory opinions; assesses potential ethical issues; provides periodic ethics education; and enforces the Ethics Code through investigations, hearings, and resolution processes.

The Ethics Board Annual report summarizes yearly advisory opinions, investigation requests and verified complaints. This is done in an effort to inform the public as to matters that are generally before the Board and the Board's determinations in those matters. The summaries are written in a matter that protects the integrity of the closed session discussions and the confidentiality of the requestors and subjects. The summaries are for informational purposes and should not be relied upon as authoritative advice for other facts and scenarios.

Dual employment matters were a large portion of the Board's determinations and advisories in 2017. (Attachment 1). Generally, dual employment matters concern employees or officials who have employment outside of Milwaukee County. Many County employees have employment outside of their County employment. While the Ethics Code does not prohibit outside employment, the Ethics Board encourages people to contact the Board, as well as their supervisors, with any questions they may have concerning a potential conflict of interest.

The Board also saw an increase in post-employment matters. The Board received a number of inquiries as to whether hiring a former employee would be a violation of the Ethics Code. (Attachment 1). With regard to post-employment matters, the Ethics Code prohibits individuals from providing any contractual services to the County for one year following the date on which he/she ceases to be County public official or employee, without first receiving a waiver from the Finance and Audit Committee.

Lastly, the Ethics Board received numerous requests for advice concerning situations of personal or private financial gain. Under the Ethics Code, County officials and employees are prohibited from using their public position or office to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for the private benefit of himself/herself or his/her immediate family, or for an organization with which he/she is associated.

The Ethics Board saw an increase in inquiries overall in 2017. This may be due to increased awareness of the Board and its role in Milwaukee County. The Board welcomes inquiries and all inquiries are confidential.

Submitted by,

/s/ Stephanie Hunnicutt  
Stephanie Hunnicutt, Executive Director  
Milwaukee County Ethics Board

Attch: 2017 Issues before the Ethics Board

cc: Kelly Bablitsch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive's Office  
Allyson Smith, Coordinator, Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee

# Determinations and Advisory Opinions

Common Issues Before the Board

