



Milwaukee County Ethics Board

DATE: March 17, 2022

TO: Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Chairman Anthony Staskunas, Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and
General Services Committee
Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Vice Chair, Milwaukee County Judiciary,
Safety and General Services Committee
Members of the Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services
Committee
Interested Parties

FROM: Adam Gilmore, Executive Director, Ethics Board

RE: Ethics Board Findings Contained in 2021 Annual Report and Potential
Applicability to Other Factual Situations

BACKGROUND

On March 16, 2022, the office of the Ethics Board published their 2021 Annual Report, providing copies to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Chair and the County Executive. As has been past practice when the Annual Report is published, the office of the Ethics Board submits a supplemental report discussing the potential applicability of the Ethics Board's 2021 determinations and advisories to Milwaukee County officials and employees. These reports are for the consideration of the County Board and specifically the Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee and intended to be informational only.

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 the Milwaukee County General Ordinances). Some of the duties of the Board include:

- Providing Advisory Opinions
- Assessing Potential Ethical Issues
- Providing Periodic Ethics Education
- Enforcing the Ethics Code through Investigations, Hearings, and other Resolution Processes

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Board Members
CHRISTOPHER MEULER · Chair
CHRISTINE HANSEN · Vice Chair
RICHARD DONNER · DANA GUTHRIE · CLARENCE P. NICHOLAS · RACHEL YATES

Each year, the Ethics Board releases its Annual Report, summarizing their yearly advisory opinions, investigations requests, and verified complaints. This is done in an effort to inform and educate the public as to matters that are generally before the Board and the Board's determinations in those matters. Any opinion or response issued by the Ethics Board applies solely to the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular request. The summaries in the annual report are written in a manner that protects the integrity of the closed session discussions of the Board and the confidentiality of the subjects of opinions and responses. The Board's findings vary on what may initially appear to be relatively similar scenarios, due to the particular facts and circumstances that are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. *The summaries are for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as authoritative advice for other facts and scenarios.*

The scenarios referred to in the Annual Report are reflective of the most commonly asked questions of the Ethics Board through the years, relating to topics such as:

- Conflicts of Interest
- Gifts
- Use of Government Position and Resources
- Outside Employment
- Post-Employment
- Political Activity

In spite of the ongoing health crisis, 2021 saw the number of inquiries received by the Ethics Board nearly double, exceeding even the number of inquiries received in 2019 pre-health crisis. The Ethics Board and its office are proud of this increase, as it shows growing awareness of the Code and consideration of its contents by County employees and officials. We are also happy to report that no valid investigation requests or verified complaints were filed in 2021. As always, the Board welcomes all inquiries and guarantees their confidentiality.

Submitted by,



Adam Gilmore, Executive Director
Milwaukee County Ethics Board

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive's Office
Allyson Smith, Coordinator, Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee