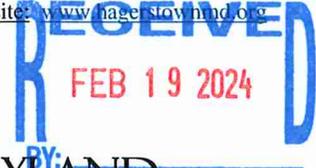




CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Office of the City Clerk
One East Franklin Street • Hagerstown, MD 21740
Telephone: 301.766.4183 • TDD: 301.797.6617 • Website: www.hagerstownmd.org



THE ETHICS COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

c/o City Clerk, 1 East Franklin Street, Room 200, Hagerstown, MD 21740

REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION

Requestor's Name: Stephen Schutte
Requestor's Department: 2024 Candidate
Requestor's Title/Position: Mayor's Candidacy
Requestor's Mailing Address: 836 Armstrong Ave Hagerstown
MD 21740

1. Description of the facts and circumstances in question (Continue on the back of this form if additional space is needed). Please attach any relevant supported documentation.

I have filed to run for Mayor - at the time of filing I was not aware of any potential conflicts of interest if elected. City staff was kind enough to

let me know that there is and issues with me working for Point Broadband as Point holds an active contract with the City

2. Summary of the ethics issue requested to be determined (continue on back of this form if necessary): _____

If I were to continue my bid for Mayor and win - would I be in conflict?
As Mayor - I would not have a direct vote in any city ISP issues.

I am seeking for an advisory opinion and the ability to resume my campaign.
Thank you for the time!

The undersigned Requestor, a person subject to the City of Hagerstown Code of Ethics, hereby requests an advisory opinion of The Ethics Commission for the City of Hagerstown pursuant to §33-3(b) of the City Code, as outlined above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

2/19/2024



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

City Ethics Commission

March 8, 2024

Mr. Stephen Schutte
836 Armstrong Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

RE: Request for Advisory Opinion 02-19-2024

Dear Mr. Schutte:

You requested an advisory opinion regarding whether or not there would be any conflicts of interest if you are elected as Mayor, as you are working for Point Broadband. Point Broadband has an active pole attachment agreement with the City of Hagerstown.

The City Ethics Commission (Commission) met on Monday, March 4, 2024 to consider your question. After reviewing your request, the current Ethics Code, the Agreement for the Use of Plant Facilities (pole attachment agreement), and talking with you, the Commission agrees there is currently no ethical issue to address, as you do not currently hold a position with the City of Hagerstown that would represent a conflict.

A potential conflict might arise if you successfully secure a position with the City, be it by employment or by way of election. At that point, you would need to again make contact with the Commission in order to obtain an Advisory Opinion, but only if you were to remain employed with your current employer, while also having business contacts with the City of Hagerstown.

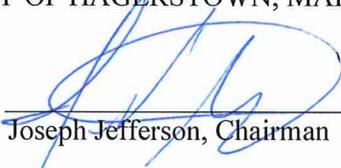
By Rules of Procedure adopted by the Commission, the identity of the person who is the subject of an Advisory Opinion shall not be disclosed without the consent of the person. You stated in our meeting with you on March 4, 2024 that you wished for your identity to be made public. Therefore, no information has been redacted from this Opinion.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

ETHICS COMMISSION FOR THE
CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

BY: _____


Joseph Jefferson, Chairman

cc: City Clerk
City Administrator
City Attorney