

Weiss Serota Helfman Cole &
Bierman, P.L.

Memo

To: Angel Gomez, City Commissioner, City of Weston

From: Jamie A. Cole, City Attorney, City of Weston

Date: March 11, 2016

Re: Annual Ethics Training
CAO : 16-W03 (Reporting Requirements)

cc: City Commission
City Manager

You attended the live four-hour ethics training session our office conducted on February 22, 2016 at City Hall. You ask whether the workshop that you attended satisfies the ethics training requirement contained in the revised Broward County Ethics Ordinance.

Due to the fact the ethics workshop in City Hall covered public service ethics and totaled four hours, you have satisfied the four-hour ethics training standard established by the revised local ethics ordinance. Finally, in order to comply with the reporting requirement under the ordinance, please file a form with the city clerk within thirty days after the end of the term year (by December 7, 2016) certifying that you participated in the public service ethics workshop and have met the four-hour ethics training requirement for the applicable time period. The certification should include the date of the session, the number of hours completed and the mode of the session.

This Opinion is provided pursuant to Subsection 8 of the County Ethics Code, which allows an Elected Official to request an advisory opinion about how the Code applies to his or her own situation. “Requests for opinions shall be considered only if in writing and signed by the Elected Official or by his or her office staff. Requests for opinions shall state all material facts necessary for the advising attorney to understand the circumstances and render a complete and correct opinion.” In addition, “until amended or revoked, an advisory opinion rendered pursuant to this section shall be binding on the conduct of the Elected Official covered by the opinion unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for advisory opinion. If the Elected Official acts in accordance with a binding advisory opinion, the Elected Official’s conduct may

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not be found to be in violation of the Broward County Elected Official Code of Ethics. However, any opinion rendered under this section shall not be binding as to whether the Elected Official's action complies with state or federal ethics requirements.”

Assuming that you have disclosed all pertinent facts to us, you may use this opinion as a “safe harbor” under the Broward County Ethics Ordinance should any questions arise concerning the Opinion provided herein.

If you need any additional guidance regarding this matter, please contact us.

Jamie A. Cole
City Attorney