

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

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Office of Ethics Commission

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March 26, 2019

Ms. Terry Schum, Director
Department of Planning, Community
and Economic Development
City of College Park
4500 Knox Road
College Park, MD 20740

Re: Solicitation of Donations for Bike to Work Day Pit Stop Event

Dear Ms. Schum:

I am writing on behalf of the Ethics Commission in response to your memorandum of March 21, 2019, requesting an advisory opinion regarding the solicitation by City staff of sponsorships and donations from local businesses for the Bike to Work Day pit stop event that the Planning Department is hosting on May 17, 2019. As you discussed with the City's Ethics Counsel, we are of the opinion that the Commission's March 12, 2012, advice letter to the Department of Youth, Family, and Senior Services regarding the solicitation of donations for City-sponsored events is applicable to your inquiry and, should you follow its guidance, your Department's solicitation in support of the pit stop event will not violate the Ethics Chapter. I am including a copy of that letter for your reference.

Because time is of the essence and we feel confident in our advice, with your agreement, we are issuing this letter in lieu of a formal advisory opinion, which would require the Ethics Commission to convene before issuing an opinion. Thank you for considering the ethical implications of soliciting donations, and do not hesitate to contact the Commission if you have further questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Theis".

Joseph Theis
Chair

Enclosure