

Board of Ethics
City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 10152
Stamford CT. 06904-2152

May 21, 1994

Mr. Patrick O'Connor
Commissioner of Finance
City of Stamford
Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 10152
Stamford CT. 06904-2152

Dear Commissioner O'Connor,

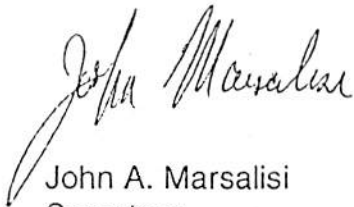
You have requested an advisory opinion regarding your attendance at a seminar or seminars. You have represented to the Board that the seminars are being conducted by a corporation (IBM) that is or may be a vendor of the City of Stamford. You have also represented that the seminar is directly related to your present responsibilities and duties. The sponsoring corporation will waive any tuition or fees for meals or overnight accommodations. The sponsor has also confirmed that in the event that attendees so require, the corporation will bill the City for the cost of meals and accommodations. It has been represented, and the sponsoring corporation's literature confirms, that the seminar is being conducted at a nearby training facility that cannot be considered to be a resort. It is the further understanding of the Board that the sponsoring organization conducts these seminars as a matter of routine. The seminar is informational in nature and will be attended by a multitude of officials and employees from a variety of municipalities. The Board understands that your responsibility to the City of Stamford includes participation in the procurement of certain services, computer hardware and services. The Board is acting with the understanding that all such acquisitions shall be subjected to competitive processes such as bidding or RFP's.

The Board has noted that the seminar is open to officials from a multitude of municipalities. In light of the fact pattern described and the representations you have made, the Board is of the opinion that your participation in the seminars described would not result in a violation of Ordinance 706 Supplemental. The Board is of the opinion that there is no need to request the sponsoring organization charge the City of Stamford or yourself for your meals or accommodations.

In accordance with Section 14(C)(1) of Ordinance 706 Supplemental, this opinion is binding upon the Board and yourself unless amended or revoked and reliance on this opinion in good faith is an absolute defense in any action or proceeding brought under the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

The Board thanks you for taking the time and effort to request an advisory opinion in advance of undertaking the transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Marsalisi".

John A. Marsalisi
Secretary

cc: Lois Pont-Briant, Town Clerk