



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
2415 QUAIL DRIVE
THIRD FLOOR
BATON ROUGE, LA 70808
(225) 763-8777
FAX: (225) 763-8780
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.state.la.us

February 9, 2007

Mr. Mike Grimmer, Parish President
Parish of Livingston
P. O. Box 427
Livingston, LA 70754

REVISED COPY

RE: Ethics Board Docket No. 2007-044

Dear Mr. Grimmer:

The Board of Ethics, at its February 8, 2007 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion concerning whether Danny Harrell, the son of Livingston Parish Councilman Duey Harrell, may be employed by the Parish or by Grace and Hebert Architects, a contractor of the Parish, to perform inspection work on a Parish project. You stated that Livingston Parish is building a new jail facility. The project is under the supervision of Grace and Hebert Architects under a contract with the Parish. Danny Harrell is qualified to work as an inspector and the Parish would like to directly hire him to serve as an inspector on this project or, in the alternative, would like for him to serve as an inspector on behalf of Grace and Hebert. You, additionally, asked whether he could be employed Grace and Hebert to work on projects not involving Livingston Parish projects.

The Board, with Chairman Roland not participating, concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Livingston Parish from hiring Danny Harrell to provide inspection services while his father serves as a Parish Councilman. Section 1119 of the Code prohibits an immediate family member of a member of a governing authority from being employed by the governmental entity. Therefore, the proposed employment is prohibited.

The Board, additionally, concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Danny Harrell from being employed by Grace and Hebert; however, Section 1113A of the Code will prohibit him from providing services on Parish projects on behalf of the architect firm. Furthermore, Section 1114 of the Code will require him to file a financial disclosure with the Board of Ethics disclosing the amount of income received from Grace & Hebert since it has a contract with the Parish, his father's agency. Such disclosure statements are to be filed by May 1st and includes information from the previous calendar year.

The Board issues no opinion as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (225)763-8777 or at (800)842-6630.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Peggy A. Sabadie
For the Board

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER