

CONFLICT OF INTEREST -
CONCERN OF SPOUSE'S
EMPLOYMENT

CAMBRIDGE ETHICS COMMISSION
C/O ROBERT S. COLLISON, ESQ.
311 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MD 21613

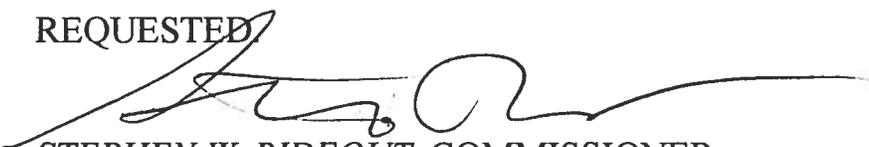
ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION 02-2012

HAVING MET ON MARCH 7, 2012, AND CONSIDERED THE REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION BY WILLIAM C. CRAIG AND HAVING CONSIDERED THE LEGAL OPINION OF ROBERT S. COLLISON, ESQ., COUNSEL FOR THE ETHICS COMMISSION, WHICH IS ATTACHED HERTO,

THE CAMBRIDGE ETHICS COMMISSION BY UNANIMOUS VOTE HEREBY ADOPTS MR. COLLISON'S LEGAL OPINION OF MARCH 6, 2012 AS THE OPINION OF THE COMMISSION;

AND FURTHER REQUESTS THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO PLACE THIS OPINION ON THE WEBSITE OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AND MAKE COPIES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC WHEN REQUESTED.



STEPHEN W. RIDEOUT, COMMISSIONER
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

March 9, 2012

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March 6, 2012

Cambridge Ethics Commission
311 High Street
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

RE: Advisory Opinion
William C. Craig

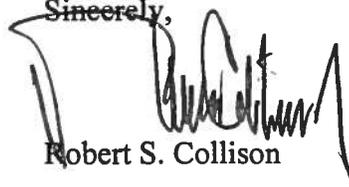
Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to provide you with my legal analysis for the advisory opinion requested by William C. Craig, on January 12, 2012. Mr. Craig requests an opinion as to his ability to serve on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission for the city of Cambridge if his wife is the elected Clerk of Court for Dorchester County, Maryland.

It is my opinion that the mere fact of his wife's position would not render him ineligible to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission. The issue of a conflict of interest arising would need to be viewed on a case by case basis. Obviously, if his wife was an applicant, before the Commission, Mr. Craig would need to disclose that fact and recuse himself from participating in that case. Likewise, if Dorchester County was an applicant before the Commission, then Mr. Craig should also disclose the fact that his wife is employed by the county, and recuse himself from participation.

If you should have any questions regarding these matters, please contact me at 410-228-1911.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Collison