

Monday, October 26, 2020

Thomas S. Schneidau  
The Office of the City Attorney  
The City of Slidell  
P.O. Box 828  
Slidell, Louisiana 70459-0828

**Re: Louisiana Board of Ethics  
Docket No. 2020-707**

Dear Mr. Schneidau:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics ("Board"), at its November 6, 2020 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit the City of Slidell, through the Slidell Police Department ("SPD"), from placing retired K9 officers with their SPD handler or other sufficiently trained law enforcement employees of the SPD.

**FACTS PROVIDED**

The SPD owns a number of highly trained K9 officers that work with specially trained (human) SPD officers in various law enforcement activities, including in narcotics detection and suspect apprehension. During their career, K9 officers remain in the custody of their handler, the K9 officer's human partner and an employee of the SPD. Upon retirement of the SPD K9 officer from active service, the SPD desires that the retired K9 officer live out its life with its handler or another adequately trained SPD law enforcement member. The SPD has inquired as to whether the Code would prohibit the handler or other SPD employee from receiving ownership of a retired K9 officer through action, private purchase, donation, or other means of disposition by the SPD.

**LAW**

**La. R.S. 42:1111(A)** prohibits a public employee from receiving anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that based on the facts presented, current SPD employees would not be prohibited from receiving the retired K9 officer through donation or other SPD disposition as long as it is the SPD's policy that the current SPD employee is duly entitled to receive the retired K9 officer. This policy appears evident given the SPD's desire to place the retired K9 officer with its handler or another appropriately trained SPD employee.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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LaToya D. Jordan  
For the Board

**DISCLAIMER**  
This is a draft opinion and it is NOT an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.