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May 20, 2021

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

RE: Request for Advisory Opinions

Dear Members of the Ethics Board:

I represent Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District Number 3. I have been requested by the Fire District Board to request ethics opinions on several questions that have been discussed at previous meetings of the Board.

Specifically the questions are:

Number 1a. The District has a part-time fire chief, and he is engaged to be married to a "work as needed" contract firefighter for the District. Would this be an ethics violation?

Number 1b. If the part-time fire chief promotes his fiancé, as well as all other contract firefighters to the rank of Lieutenant, is this an ethics violation?

Number 2. The part-time fire chief appointed an assistant chief. The assistant chief has a brother who has been a contract firefighter for the District for over two (2) years. Is it an ethical violation if the assistant chief were to supervise his brother?

Number 3. The Board did not obtain three (3) bids on a project to build a storage building and only one (1) quote was obtained in the amount of \$28,900.00. When it was brought to the Board's attention, the Board cancelled the project. Is this an ethical violation?

Number 4. If the Board hires a person to pressure wash the buildings belonging to the Fire District for less than \$3,000.00, without obtaining three (3) quotes for the proposed project, is this an ethics violation?

Number 5a. If an electrically operated vending machine owned by a volunteer firefighter is placed in a building belonging to the Fire District, is there a ethics violation since the electricity used by the machine is being paid with the Fire District's money?

Number 5b. Would it make any difference if the vending machine is mechanically operated and did not use electricity?

Number 5c. If the volunteer firefighter was later be appointed to the Board, would there be an ethical violation?

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Number 6. If a Board member, who is also a dive team member, were to travel out of the state to obtain dive team training at the expense of the Fire District, would this be an ethics violation?

Number 7. If a volunteer firefighter was to travel out of state, on a personal trip, and use diving equipment belonging to the Fire District, would this be an ethical violation?

Number 8. If the Board were to use funds belonging to the Fire District to purchase a plaque to dedicate a flag pole to a to a current board member, secretary, other officer or current firefighter of the Fire District, would this be an ethical violation?

On behalf of the Fire District Board, I am requesting advisory opinions from you on the above questions.

I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,



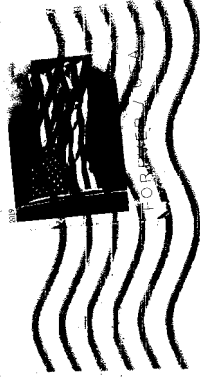
Michael E. Parks

MEP/kr

cc: Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District Number 3.

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