DATE

Lionell Lawson
8010 Lower Zachary Road
Zachary, Louisiana 70791

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2021-479

Dear Mr. Lawson,

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its meeting on September 3, 2021, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit the City of Zachary from hiring your son, Jeffry Demond Lawson.

FACTS PROVIDED

You are currently employed by the City of Zachary as a Department Director over the Utility Department. The other co-director is Jeffery Johnson. All employees in the Utility Department are cross-trained to work all aspects of utilities: gas, water, and sewer. Additionally, all Utility Department employees can be transferred from any crew to another crew at any time. You approve all payroll for the Utility Department

Your son, Jeffry Demond Lawson, is seeking employment with the City of Zachary in the Utilities Department, to work on a gas crew.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1119A provides that no member of the immediate family of an agency head shall be employed in his agency.

La. R.S. 42:1102(13) defines "immediate family" of a public servant to include the public servant's children.

La. R.S. 42:1102(2)(a)(vi) defines "agency," for public servants of political subdivisions, to mean the agency in which the public servant serves … Public servants of political subdivisions shall include, but shall not be limited to, elected officials and public employees of municipalities;

La. R.S. 42:1102(3) defines "agency head" to mean the chief executive or administrative officer of an agency.

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.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that Section 1119A prohibits your son, Jeffry Demond Lawson, from being employed by the City of Zachary in the Utilities Department, since you are an agency head over the Utilities Department.

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. Please note that the Board issues no opinion as to past conduct and that the Board's expressed opinion is limited to an examination of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the 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

_____
David M. Bordelon
For the Board

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