



Ethics Task Force

~MINUTES~

DRAFT

Wednesday, April, 19, 2017

3:00 PM

Task Force Chair:
Richard Wishnie

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mr. Wishnie called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Richard Wishnie		Present	
Marylou Green		Present	
Dennis Kremer		Present	
John Mattis		Absent	

Others In Attendance: BOL: D. Linhardt, C. Crane.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **(ID # 10038) Communication - HON. MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ: County Ethics Waiver Request - Conte:**

Forwarding a letter from a former County employee requesting a waiver to the County Code of Ethics pursuant to the Laws of the Westchester County Section 883.21(i)(3).

Mr. Wishnie noted that the Ethics Task Force was meeting via a telephone conference. He asked if all the members had received the letter from Probation Commissioner Pozzi and they replied that they had. Mr. Wishnie than asked for comments form the members.

Ms. Green noted that she appreciated Commissioner Pozzi's communication, but also stated that she still had doubts about the urgency of the request.

Mr. Wishnie asked for a motion to approve which was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Wishnie.

Mr. Kremer stated that although he also appreciated the communication from Commissioner Pozzi he doesn't see the urgency on the part of the County. He noted that he was not sure that anything would be lost by waiting until August, when Mr. Conte could accept the position as a paid consultant without needing a waiver. He said it doesn't reflect on Mr. Conte in any way.

Mr. Wishnie stated that the fact that the letter from Commissioner Pozzi had come to us from County Executive showed a need from the County administration.

Ms. Green added that she finds it uncomfortable to be asked to make this decision. Mr. Wishnie made reference to a line from the Commissioner's letter showing that he sees a need for this program as soon as possible. Mr. Pozzi wrote, "I am very interested in establishing this pilot program. Obtaining Mr. Conte's expertise and services in this areas as soon as possible would be of great value to the Probation Department."

As there was already a motion on the floor, Mr. Wishnie called for a vote. Mr. Wishnie and Ms. Green voted to approve the recommendation and Mr. Kremer voted in the negative. The motion carried 2 -1.

This item was recommended by the Ethics Task Force to the Committee on Legislation for approval and submission to the Board of Legislators for a vote.

RESULT:	REVIEWED
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II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Green, seconded by Mr. Wishnie, the Committee adjourned at 3:12 PM.

March 20, 2017

Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz
Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Re: Request Pursuant to Section 883.21(i)(3) of the Laws of Westchester County

Dear Chairman Kaplowitz:

Please consider this correspondence to be a request related to providing consulting services to the County made pursuant to Section 883.21(i)(3) of the Laws of Westchester County.

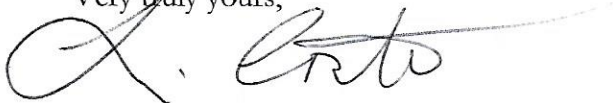
As you may be aware, prior to my retirement from County service, I held the position of Assistant Commissioner of Probation for the Westchester County Department of Probation, and as such I was a Reporting Officer within the meaning of Westchester County Code of Ethics. I retired from County service on July 29, 2016.

I am interested in providing consulting services to the Department of Probation, in the form of providing polygraph examinations of probationers, and other related matters. I understand that I am prohibited from providing these services to the Department, until one year has passed from my date of retirement, absent approval of this waiver request by the Board of Legislators.

I am also aware that, if the Board of Legislators should act favorably upon my application and that if I should accept a consulting arrangement with the County of Westchester, I am required to file an instrument with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 883.21(i) of the Laws of Westchester County.

I would respectfully request that the Board of Legislators consider my request at its next meeting. I am available to answer any questions the Board may have, and can be reached at 914-708-6103.

Very truly yours,



Louis Conte
18 Pollywigggle Lane
Pleasantville, NY 10570
Premiermetropolitanpolygraph@gmail.com

Cc: The Honorable Margaret A. Cunzio
County Legislator – District 3