

March 19, 2003

Monroe City Council  
c/o Ms. Donetta Walser, Mayor  
City of Monroe  
806 West Main Street  
Monroe, Washington 98272-2198

Dear Mayor Walser,

It has come to my attention that the Monroe City Council has requested an opinion from the appointed Ethics Board regarding a conflict of interest issue. This issue apparently concerns whether a sitting planning commissioner can provide consulting services for the City, and/or through another consultant. Obviously I have been singled-out, and this is directed at me.

I understand that the council will receive the Ethics Board opinion tonight at the council meeting, but that no decision by the council of their review and action will occur until their next meeting on March 26, 2003. Since apparently the Ethics Boards' rules are tailored to rid the City of questionable practices, as they perceive it, I assume their opinion is that ANY work I would do is in conflict. I would like to present this letter in support of my position, and opinion, regarding this issue. If possible, I would also like to attend next weeks' meeting and speak on this issue.

I have lived in this community for about 28 years, and have been a planning commissioner for the City over the last approximately 8 years. From time to time, I have been and worked as a consultant for the City, providing what I believed was low-cost, effective professional services for the City and my community. For about the last 4 of those years, Councilman Mechling has been critical of me, based on his view of my apparent conflict of interest. I believe this is mostly why the Ethics Board was even fabricated, to rid the community of any possible wrongdoing. I believe this is a culmination of planning, irrational thinking, mean-spiritedness and coercion by Councilman Mechling to get me off the planning commission. This is even though in the past I requested the City receive an opinion from their own attorney, and from Washington state, regarding whether or not my association with the City as a non-

judicial member of a commission, and whether any consulting work I might do for or with the City was in conflict. Twice it was ruled that I was not, and absolutely did not have a conflict of interest. Mechling has cost the city money with his antics before, and surely will again.

My participation as a planning commissioner has been time-consuming, but also very exciting and productive. I am proud of my involvement and participation in the Monroe community. I have ignored the personal attacks, because I have merely considered the source. However, now my business, professionalism, business associations, and family are now involved, since "ethically" I am in violation of some inane rules decided on by a witch-hunt board. I am not in a conflict of interest position, no matter what the board might say. The council will have to decide, individually and as a whole, whether they are truly in agreement with the boards decision, or not. I believe with their decision, the future of the City's' credibility and effectiveness is at stake.

Should the council decide to agree with the Ethics Board that I am in a conflict of interest position as a standing planning commissioner, then you can accept my resignation from the commission effective the moment after the council votes to concur. I will not be associated with the witch-hunt approach taken by the board and their "leader". Should the council not concur with the boards' decision, I would consider continuing in my role as planning commissioner. If not, thank you for the consideration. In any event I will continue to pursue my professional consulting and business ventures within the City, as well as throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Respectfully,



David L. Nelson