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ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
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September 19, 2014

Honorable Frank Valenzuela &
Members of the Township Committee
Township of Rochelle Park
151 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662

RE: 58 Schlosser Drive
Zoning Board of Adjustment

TC - DA has
authorized
complaint


Dear Mayor Valenzuela &
Members of the Township Committee:

In accordance with your request I will be initiating the process to file an ethics inquiry or complaint against William Coleman, the Chairman of the Rochelle Park Zoning Board of Adjustment.

As I explained to you at the last meeting, since the Township does not have its own ethics board, the matter would be reviewed and handled by the State of New Jersey Local Finance Board.

In that regard I have enclosed herewith copies of the following:

1. Provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5 which is the code of ethics for local government officers;
2. Procedural regulations for the Local Finance Board's handling of ethics complaints.

Based upon the information provided to me, it would appear that the Township Committee has opined that Mr. Coleman may have violated the following provisions of the Code of Ethics:

- c) No local government officer or employee shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for himself or others;

- d) No local government officer or employee shall act in his official capacity in any matter where he, a member of his immediate family, or a business organization in which he has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial or personal involvement that might reasonably be expected to impair his objectivity or independence of judgment.
- g) No local government officer or employee or business organization in which he has an interest shall represent any person or party other than the local government in connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter pending before any agency in the local government in which he serves.

The specific allegations which have been made include the following:

1. Mr. Coleman contacted and met with Secretary of the Zoning Board for assistance in preparation of an application on behalf of the property owner of the property in which he resides;
2. Mr. Coleman, in meeting with or discussing this matter with the Board Secretary, "coached" her regarding entries to be made.
3. Mr. Coleman communicated directly with members of the Zoning Board who would be hearing the application regarding that property.
4. Mr. Coleman attempted to use his position in order to obtain a favorable determination by the Zoning Official.

I would appreciate it if you would review this letter as well as the enclosures and confirm that this letter accurately reflects the position that you would like me to maintain before the Local Finance Board.

Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you for the authorization to file a complaint based upon these facts.

Very truly yours,

JJR:at

JOSEPH J. ROTOLO, ESQ.

cc: Mr. Robert Davidson, Township Administrator
Township Clerk