

City of Bainbridge Island
Ethics Board
Complaint Determination

Case # 2018-04

Date Filed: 14 September 2018

Complainant: Chip McDermott

Respondent: Ron Peltier, Council Member

Chip McDermott (complainant) filed a complaint on September 14, 2018 alleging that Ron Peltier (respondent), a member of the Bainbridge Island City Council, has a conflict of interest because respondent agreed to support complainant's effort to reduce the speed limit on Grow Avenue on the condition that the effort be expanded to include Lovell Avenue, an adjacent street where respondent owns residential property.

Respondent provided the Ethics Board with a response to the complaint on November 14, 2018. In the response, respondent confirms that he owns property on Lovell Avenue but denies that was his motivation for extending the lower speed limit to Lovell.

Conflicts of interest are covered under Article II, Section D, Subsection 1 of the Code of Ethics. The relevant part of the subsection reads:

"...an elected official or member of a City Committee or Commission shall not directly, or indirectly through a subordinate or fellow officer, official or employee, take any direct official action on a matter on behalf of the City if he or she, or a member of the immediate family:

c. Is a party to a contract or the owner of an interest in real or personal property that would be significantly affected by the action."

The Ethics Board has determined that, based on the submissions of the complainant and the respondent, a material violation of the Code of Ethics has likely occurred. As provided for in Article III, Section D, Subsection 6 of the Code of Ethics, the Board will forward this determination to the City Council for review.

Follow up to ethics complaints by City Council is addressed in Article IV, Section A of the Code of Ethics.

Scott Wilder

Chair