

TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Village Courtroom @ 7:00 pm

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:
  - A. March 11, 2025
  - B. May 13, 2025
2. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATES
3. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES
4. NEW BUSINESS:
  - A. Jefferson Ave - speeding concern, request for crosswalk at  
Jefferson/Hillside Ave
5. OLD BUSINESS:
  - A. Speed hump policy review - Ana/Robert
  - B. Intersection of Elliot Ave and Underhill Ave (Andy, FD)
6. WORKING SESSION (no public comment):
  - A. Review of open traffic commission items

**Reminders:**

- **Thursday, May 5th, 5:00-7:00 NYSDOT Meeting at Mamaroneck HS regarding Route 1 Project**
- **Next Meeting - July 8 - 7:00 pm, Court Room**

Village of Mamaroneck Traffic Commission  
Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025  
Meeting held in the Village Courtroom, 7:00 pm  
Minutes Prepared by Tina Maresca with help from TC members

**Present:** Tina Maresca, Chairperson; Commission Members: Erica Swansen, Ana Caracas-DeLeon, Laura Abbate, David Brown, Robert Stark, Adelina Clarke PO. Ibanez, VOM PD Liaison; Diana Reilly of the Rye Neck SRTS; Dan Kushnik, Trustee Liaison; Dennis Delborgo, VOM Assistant Village Manager; Andrew LaRocco, VMFD liaison; Mike Smeets, LM Bike Lanes

**Absent:** None

Tina made a motion to open the meeting at 6:59 pm. Ana seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of meeting minutes:**

February 11, 2025 - Laura seconded, all in favor.

**Rye Neck Safe Routes to School, Diana Reilly**

- In terms of improvements by Daniel Warren, Courtney Wong has been communicating with David Parker of the NYS DOT, and we understand that they'll be collecting more information over the course of spring.
- We still do not have news from the NYS DOT about when the April Open House about Rte. 1 will take place.
- We have news that the discussion of the capital budget for the Frank/Lorena Ave. sidewalk is supposed to take place with the VOM Board on March 26 (as part of Gino Frabasile's capital budget proposal).
- We'll be following up with the VOM PD about meeting the new Police Chief when they start.

## **Mike Smeets, LM Bike Lanes/Safe Routes to School**

Mike recommended the Traffic Commission look into a GIS (mapping) based solution if it upgrades the citizen report database currently maintained by Robert. A map based view of reports would bring a lot of benefits to the traffic commission including better visualization and integration with other data sources such as accident data. The Village of Larchmont's SS4A program GIS application (<https://akrf.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/reporter/index.html?appid=8eabc2cdf40947118e66d18bac125e44>) is a good example of what's possible.

It was also mentioned that a request for a sidewalk on Old Post Rd has been suggested again. After some discussion the majority of the Commission felt that adding the sidewalk was not needed at this time since speed humps and painted lines were added over the last few years. A few Orienta residents that have spoken with Safe Routes to School feel the speed humps and lineage have helped tremendously. A concern that was raised was for the safety of bicyclists if a sidewalk was added. Members felt that with a sidewalk there would not be a safe space for bikes to travel along the road.

## **New Business**

### **Standish Pl/Harrison Ave Safety Concerns**

- Issue: A resident of Standish Place was present to explain several safety concerns when exiting Standish Pl.
- Discussion: Visibility is limited as you look to your right when exiting Standish Place making it dangerous for cars to exit the street. A discussion was had with regards to possibly eliminating a few parking spots on Harrison Avenue to make visibility better.
- In addition, there used to be a bigger "Dead End" sign as you enter the street. The current sign is very small. Many cars and trucks turn onto the street thinking it cuts through to Rose Ave when it is actually a dead end. It was requested to add a regular

sized "Dead End" sign at the entrance to the Standish Place and for it to be placed high enough for vehicles to see it.

Action: **We need to find out if the Village is allowed to remove parking on Harrison Ave or if we need permission from NYS DOT since they own the road.**

**The traffic commission requests that a new, regular size "Dead End" sign be added at the entrance to Standish Place.**

### **Fulton Ave at Woodbine Ave safety concerns:**

Issue: A resident expressed concern over safety at drop off at Mamaroneck High School in the mornings.

Discussion: Cars are coming out of Woodbine and turning left onto Fulton Ave, which is a one way going out, in order to access the driveway to enter Mamaroneck High School.

Action: Ask the Police Department for more enforcement when possible.  
Add more signage? See what signage is possible and appropriate.  
Ask the school to send out a message to parents.

### **No Left Turn out of the Mason onto Mamaroneck Ave (Ana)**

Issue: Cars currently making a left out of the driveway to the Mason onto Mamaroneck Ave often block traffic on Mamaroneck Avenue and make it dangerous for pedestrians walking on the sidewalk.

Discussion: The Traffic Commission discussed different options and decided it would not make sense to make a "no left turn" out of this driveway. The driveway is in fact a village road (E. Plaza Ave) so we can add signage if needed. Safety improvements were discussed to help the situation. Can we paint a "don't block the box" on the roadway? Can we have more enforcement?

Action: None at this time

### **Creation of School Zone on Ralph Ave from Elliot Ave to Gertrude Ave.**

- Issue: In a prior meeting the Traffic Commission made recommendations to add school zones to the streets surrounding Mamaroneck Ave School but were not aware that Ralph Ave between Elliot Ave & Gertrude Ave did not have an existing school zone.
- Discussion: The traffic commission thinks it is important to add this school zone as it is directly behind the school where children and parents travel daily to the school entrance.
- Action: **Erika made a motion to create a School Zone with a 15 mph speed limit on Ralph Ave beginning at Elliot Ave and ending at Gertrude Ave.**  
**Ana seconded, all in favor.**

### **Intersection of Elliot Ave and Underhill Ave (Andy, FD)**

- Issue: When responding to a fire call the fire department had difficulty making the turn from Elliot Ave onto Underhill Ave because of parked cars.
- Discussion: Andy explained that a parking space needs to be removed in order for the VOM fire trucks to safely turn onto Underhill Ave.
- Action: Hold until next month. Andy will bring drawings and recommendations from the fire department.

### **Handicap parking space request at 407 Beach Ave (Robert)**

- Issue: Resident is requesting a handicap parking space near their home at 407 Beach Ave as it is difficult for them to exit their car in their driveway.
- Discussion: Robert visited the location and spoke with the homeowner and they explained the width of their driveway makes it difficult for them to exit their car and they would like to request the village

add a handicap parking space near their home. It was discussed that at this location the parking is on the opposite side of the street and there are no handicap accessible ramps close enough to the home to make this request feasible or in compliance with a new set of U.S. accessibility guidelines, known as PROWAG.

Action: Robert will explain our decision to the homeowner.

## **Old Business**

### **Delancey/Palmer**

Andy needs to discuss this location with the Fire Council so we will hold it until next month.

### **Linden Street parking concerns**

Issue: Residents had emailed with safety concerns regarding parking and not being on the list to be added to the residential parking program. (None of the nearby streets were added to the parking program in the end.) The Traffic Commission discussed the issue with residents at the February 2025 meeting. One issue that came up during the discussion was access for emergency vehicles; a resident had told the Commission that the bus service for seniors claimed that they could not enter the street.

Discussion: Andy visited the location with the fire truck and explained that there are no safety concerns by the fire department accessing the road with the VOM fire trucks.

Action: None at this time

### **Speed Hump Policy Review**

The traffic commission did another read through of the document with the changes from last month. Ana and Robert will review the document with Dennis to get his input.

Tina reminded everyone that our **April 8th meeting will begin at 7:30** in the courtroom since there is a budget meeting before that will end at 7:30 and that our **May 13th meeting will begin at 6:30** since we are having the Ethics Committee attend to discuss the ethics code with us.

There being no further business before the Commission, David moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Erica seconded. All in favor.

Village of Mamaroneck Traffic Commission  
Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025  
Meeting held in the Village Courtroom, 6:30 pm  
Minutes Prepared by Tina Maresca

**Present:** Tina Maresca, Chairperson; Commission Members: Ana Caracas-DeLeon, Robert Stark, Adelina Clarke.

Lt. Gatta, VOM PD Liaison; Diana Reilly of the Rye Neck SRTS; Mike Smeets of the Mamaroneck SRTS; Dan Kushnik, Trustee Liaison

**Absent:** Laura Abbate, David Brown, Erica Swansen, Andrew LaRocco, VMFD liaison

Tina made a motion to open the meeting at 6:41 pm. Ana seconded. All in favor.

The Commission had a conversation with Dan Karson from the Ethics Board.

***Presentation attached.***

**Approval of meeting minutes:**

April 8, 2025 - Ana made a motion to approve, Addie seconded, all in favor.

March 11, 2025 - held for next meeting

## **New Business**

### **Process for review of existing traffic studies**

Tina made a suggestion to the commission to use portions of the next few meetings as “working meetings” similar to the way the BOT ran their budget meetings. If there are new business items they will be added to the agenda but the old business would be the commission going through Robert’s spreadsheet. If we can get through this then the Village staff can review each item. Robert suggested he share it with everyone so we can each prioritize what items we should start with. Laura and Erica were going to transfer the document to an easier working document. Laura said she can get this done before our next



meeting. The commission agrees that we should give this a try and see how it goes.

**Cameras located on Ward Ave tied to a pole:**

Issue: Angela from Ward Ave came to ask if the traffic commission knows what this camera is for. She thought that maybe the commission had it placed there.

Discussion: We explained that we did not know what the cameras were for or who placed them there.

Action: None

**Harrison Ave/West St intersection - crosswalk request:**

Issue: Jarrett W. came to express concern of the safety on Harrison Ave, Osborn Ave and Stoneybrook Ave.

Discussion: Jarrett explained he spoke to Gino and the Village to see if there are grants that the village can apply for. Diana explained that the VOM has been speaking with the NYS DOT and they are working on making some decisions about route 127 (Harrison Ave). Tina asked if the intersection with West St is controlled by NYS DOT or if it is controlled by the VOM. It was discussed that the intersection is very wide and will need some modifications to make it safe before adding a crosswalk. Tina also mentioned that she asked Dennis to check with the building department to see if there is a village code about the shrubbery on street corners. At this location the shrubbery is an issue with sight distance. Mike explained about the SS4A grant that was received that will allow for studies to be done which should include this area and will help to tie up all of these loose ends.

Action: Diana will continue to help advocate through Safe Routes to School about this issue and will follow up with Courtney and Dennis.

### **N. Barry Ave at Grove St - Intersection safety concern:**

- Issue: A resident emailed with concern regarding the safety of the crosswalk at Grove St and N Barry Ave because she was almost struck by a vehicle.
- Discussion: Tina explained that a while back the commission had discussed this intersection because another resident was concerned as well and that Tina had suggested adding a stop sign on N Barry Ave at Grove St. The former police chief liked the idea of the stop sign but nothing happened with the idea. It is difficult to see when you are coming out of Grove St because of the curve of the road so we think that a stop sign may help with people stopping and helping cars come out of Grove St. With the curve on N Barry and because the road narrows at that intersection it makes it difficult to turn out of Grove. A professional would need to look at the location to make a recommendation.
- Action: Dan and Tina will follow up with Dennis.

### **Safe Routes to School Updates**

Diana asked about the issue that came up with Halstead Ave crossing the street near Diamond Car Wash at Jefferson. We will take a look to see if it is in the spreadsheet as we go through it. There was an email from Gino that explained that crossing. Gino did mention that this intersection is part of the Halstead Ave improvement project. Elaine had mentioned prior that this intersection is very wide and other improvements would be needed in addition to the crosswalk. Dan will try to find out what the timeline is for the project.

Public open house moved to May with NYS DOT for Boston Post Rd project, may now be at the beginning of June. Hoping to find out the date soon. Going to try and set up a meeting with Village to have a pre-meeting with the school districts. Route 127 - Diana will follow up with Dennis & Courtney.

**Carroll Ave across from Bellows** - one issue is there are parking lines painted within the crosswalk that is directly across from the entrance of Bellows. In addition cars are parking directly up against the crosswalk and directly in front of the stop sign. Tina asked if there was a law about parking too close to a crosswalk. Lt. Gatta explained the law states you can't park in a crosswalk but doesn't say anything about how close you can park. One of the parking spaces says bus parking but it is on the opposite side from the school. **Tina suggested they ask the school why it is there to see if there was a reason.**

**At Lorena St on Carroll Ave the cars are always parking up against the stop sign.** Tina asked if the police dept can do a campaign about parking in front of stop signs before they start enforcing and giving tickets. Dan will ask DPW to take a look at this. Lt. Gatta will discuss and come up with a campaign to address the issue of parking in front of the stop signs. Diana asked if it would be possible to put bollards at this location/crossing.

**Follow up on the crosswalks that were supposed to be painted at Florence, Jensen and Brook St.** Tina & Dan brought it up to Dennis. It sounded like he thought Florence should be done because it is so close to the school but maybe not at Jensen since it is a dead end. Tina asked if there was a curb cut at Jensen. This will need to be looked at by Gino to see if the curb cuts are compliant for a crosswalk. Florence has one and that is why it was easy to be able to add the crosswalk there. Dan will follow up. The one across Brook was approved but Dan will check on Florence. Diana mentioned these things that seem easy are a great way to show the community that the BOT cares.

**Mike Smeets demonstrated what can be done by using the ARC GIS system.** The commission was very impressed with how it is able to track and it seems like it could work similar to our current spreadsheet with a better visual. He explained the village already has a subscription to the program. Great way to track and collect data. Mike suggested this is a great project for a summer intern if the village has one.

**Ana asked if there was a timeline on the bollards that are supposed to be installed on Mamaroneck Ave at Jefferson Ave.** Dan will check to see if the BOT had previously approved this. Tina mentioned it was presented by the police chief at a meeting.

**At Gertrude and Mamaroneck Ave** can a line be painted so that people stop more ahead of the crosswalk because cars are stopping in the crosswalk. Tina asked if the bike cops can help enforce. **Can a sign be added telling people to stop at the line?**

## **Old Business**

### **Delancey/Palmer**

The fire council doesn't want to look at this right now. Andy will explain at next meeting.

### **Intersection of Elliot Ave and Underhill Ave:**

Andy will give us a detailed drawing at the next meeting

### **Rockland Ave safety improvements:**

Kathleen sent an email that there is a placeholder in the budget for the sidewalks. Tina explained there were short term things that had been discussed when Tina, Robert, Gino, Chief DiRuzza and the former interim manager visited the location.

### **Lawn Terrace - speed data, speed limit signs follow up:**

Lt. Gatta explained the speed data that was given to the commission **(attached)**. In short, the data showed that the cars were not speeding

and drivers were following the rules. The speed camera was placed there from April 4 - May 13.

Lt. Gatta explained that he has been researching with Dennis a new, smaller traffic data instrument to collect data and that is not as visible. Cars would not know we were collecting the data. Would give a better picture as not to warn the drivers.

New speed limit signs were supposed to be added and have not as of yet.

### **N. Barry Ave - school zone speed limit**

Signs were put up incorrectly. It was lowered to 15 from 20 but was not approved to be changed. Dan spoke to the police chief and he was going to have officers observe it. He thinks we can keep it at 15 but we can not extend it to Carvel. PD will keep track of the data. They will try to make the speed more consistent down the rest of the roadway. Tina reminded Dan that if they plan to keep it at 15 the BOT needs to vote on it to be changed. Tina mentioned that she thinks it is important to keep it at 15 from BPR to Brook. If you visit it at 3:00 you will see why. Also, the curb is non-existent on this stretch and extremely dangerous for the children walking on the sidewalk. Diana also reminded everyone that Rye Neck SRTS originally suggested lowering it to 15 and she urges the BOT to keep it at 15.

A resident wanted parking lines painted but Dan explained that there is not enough room on the roadway. Email from James explains that it needs to be a minimum of 8 ft from the curb and the driving lane needs to be a minimum of 11 feet from that point to the double yellow line. There is not enough width on the road to do this.

### **Speed Hump Policy Review**

Ana sent the document to Dennis this morning.

### **Handicap space federal mandate clarification:**

Elaine sent a response to Dennis but it isn't simple and not what he thought it would be. He is showing it to the village attorney.

### **Abandoned vehicle timeline update:**

The Village was discussing this and thought 2 days was too short so they decided to compromise to 5 days. It is currently 7 days. The commission thinks that 5 days is still too long. After a brief discussion the commission thinks that 72 hours might be better and we would also like to know what the rules are in other neighboring towns.

### **Safe Streets for all Grant update:**

The village has a new grant writer. SS4A has been discussed. The PD made a proposal to purchase traffic data collection technology as a demonstration project. The agreement is currently under legal review.

### **Asst. Village Manager Updates:**

- Mayor Torres has sent a letter to County Executive Ken Jenkins requesting the village be considered for Red Light cameras in school zones under the county's existing Home Run Rule Authorization.
- A past request to consider a crosswalk across Harrison Ave at Osborn Ave has been referred to NYS DOT and they have agreed to conduct vehicle and pedestrian counts and report back.
- Harrison Ave/Standish - Code enforcement did not find any issues with visibility that were violations and suggested that a "No Left Turn" sign be considered. The commission does not agree with adding a no left turn sign at this time. Request to re-install a "Dead End" sign on Standish will be met by DPW.
- NYS DOT approved a speed limit of 25 mph on Harrison Ave to match the existing signage. NYS DOT has requested that the BOT adopt a resolution reflecting the speed limit as 25 mph.

- No turn on red at Halstead onto Mamaroneck Ave was installed. No turn on red from Mamaroneck Ave onto Halstead was NOT installed. Will check with DPW.

### **Greenway update:**

Concept designs have been done. VOM needs to approve funding the design work. Will likely take several years to implement.

### **Police Department Update:**

Grant supported enforcement initiatives - "put the phone away or pay", "No empty chair" (*data attached*). Upcoming enforcement "click it or ticket/Buckle up NY" in conjunction with the City of Rye

There being no further business before the Commission, Tina moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm. Ana seconded. All in favor.

05/13 – Traffic Committee Meeting Courtroom 1830 Hours (1850 after ethics meeting)

1. Lawn Terrace Speed report from ATS 3 (place approximately 04/03/2025)
  - a. See attached E-mail and Report from Chief (*attachment 01*)
2. PTS Grant updates
  - a. *Put the Phone Away or Pay* (04/08/2025 – 04/11/2025)
    - i. 18 “target” summonses issued for Texting/Using Cellphone
    - ii. 31 Total Summons issued for VTL infractions
    - iii. Or 1.25 tickets issued per enforcement hour (24 hours worked)
  - b. *No Empty Chair & Operation Safe Stop* (04/21/2025 – 04/25/2025)
    - i. Speeding (no school that day Snow give back day) – 7
    - ii. *Seatbelt/Child restraints* – 4
    - iii. *Texting/Cellphone* – 8
    - iv. *Operations Safe Stop* – 1
    - v. *Underage Drinking/Driving* – 0 arrests
    - vi. 31 Total Summons issued for VTL infractions
    - vii. Or 1.25 tickets per enforcement hour (24 hours worked)
  - c. Upcoming enforcement wave – CLICK IT OR TICKET! / BUCKLE UP NEW YORK
    - i. 05/19/2025 – 06/01/2025
    - ii. Interagency Check Point with City Of Rye date TBD (typically Wednesday)





# Compliance & Risk Report

Lawn Terrace, WB

Start: 2025-04-04  
 End: 2025-05-13  
 Times: 0:00:00-23:59:59

Medium Risk Threshold: Speed Limit + 10  
 High Risk Threshold: Speed Limit + 20  
 Speed Range: 1 to 150  
 Time View: By Hour (Total Volumes)

Time	Speed Limit	Mode	Compliant	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Total Num Vehicles
0:00	25	Dependent Messages	282	0	0	0	282
1:00	25	Dependent Messages	242	0	0	0	242
2:00	25	Dependent Messages	305	0	0	0	305
3:00	25	Dependent Messages	196	0	0	0	196
4:00	25	Dependent Messages	215	0	0	0	215
5:00	25	Dependent Messages	286	2	0	0	288
6:00	25	Dependent Messages	362	2	0	0	364
7:00	25	Dependent Messages	545	1	0	0	546
8:00	25	Dependent Messages	818	1	0	0	819
9:00	25	Dependent Messages	1120	1	0	0	1121
10:00	25	Dependent Messages	1249	2	0	1	1252
11:00	25	Dependent Messages	1885	0	0	0	1885
12:00	25	Dependent Messages	2117	3	0	0	2120
13:00	25	Dependent Messages	2080	12	0	0	2092
14:00	25	Dependent Messages	1954	48	0	0	2002
15:00	25	Dependent Messages	2007	82	0	3	2092
16:00	25	Dependent Messages	1884	0	0	0	1884
17:00	25	Dependent Messages	1600	0	0	0	1600
18:00	25	Dependent Messages	1179	0	0	0	1179
19:00	25	Dependent Messages	822	19	0	0	841
20:00	25	Dependent Messages	564	0	0	0	564
21:00	25	Dependent Messages	502	2	0	0	504
22:00	25	Dependent Messages	408	0	0	0	408
23:00	25	Dependent Messages	348	0	0	0	348
<b>Total</b>			<b>22970</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23149</b>

**THE VILLAGE OF  
MAMARONECK CODE OF  
ETHICS**



## **WHAT IS THE CODE OF ETHICS?**

- Chapter 21 of the Laws of the Village of Mamaroneck
- It's the guide to the Standards of Conduct, or “Do’s and Don’ts” for elected and appointed officials, village employees and volunteers on boards and committees



### **WHO SITS ON THE ETHICS BOARD?**

- The EB consists of 5 members appointed by the VOM Board of Trustees
- No more than 2 members may be registered with the same political party
- Website: [village.mamaroneck.ny.us/ethics](http://village.mamaroneck.ny.us/ethics)



## **THE EB'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Adjudicate Complaints that allege violations of the code
- Provide Advisory Opinions to VOM officials, employees and board/committee members on interpretations of the code
- Review Annual Disclosure Statements



## **COMPLAINTS**

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- Complaints must be filed using the form on the EB web page. They may be filed via email, US mail or in person at VOM offices
- A complainant may request anonymity, but if the complaint can't be investigated without a complainant's testimony (e.g. a violation can't be proved solely by a document or video recording, or if the complainant is the only witness) then anonymity can't be guaranteed. A complainant's testimony may be required. If so, the complainant will be given the choice of disclosing their identity or withdrawing the complaint
- The same goes for complaints received anonymously. If the EB can't proceed without more specific information, it can't conduct an investigation



## **COMPLAINTS – HEARINGS**

- Complaints are confidential, and the EB requires that complainants not disclose the existence of their complaint. If a complainant self-publishes their complaint, the EB reserves a right to issue a public reply or comment
- After receiving a Complaint, the EB will conduct an investigation. The investigation usually involves an interview of the complainant, potential witnesses and a review of relevant records and documents. The EB may conduct interviews with a stenographer recording questions and answers

## COMPLAINTS – HEARINGS

- The EB then will determine whether there are grounds to hold a formal hearing. The Respondent (the person accused of violating the Code of Ethics), has a right to a hearing and may be represented by legal counsel. At the hearing, the EB will question witnesses and testimony will be taken under oath.
- If the EB finds a violation of the Code of Ethics, it will publish its decision on the EB web page
- If a violation is found, the EB will still maintain a complainant's confidentiality, unless the complainant has self-published their complaint or made public comment





## **THE EB'S AUTHORITY**

The EB has the authority and discretion to:

- Impose a maximum fine of \$1500 per violation
- Recommend disciplinary action
- Recommend that the Village Board of Trustees bring a lawsuit for damages or other action, or debarment of a vendor
- Refer a matter to a prosecutor's office



## **LIMITS TO THE EB'S AUTHORITY**

- The EB has no authority to discipline or terminate an employee or committee/board member
- The EB has no authority to prohibit a trustee or committee/board member from speaking or voting on a matter
- The EB can initiate an investigation at its discretion, but does not pro-actively “police” the conduct of village officials, employees or volunteer

## **THE CODE SECTIONS AND ISSUES THAT THE EB DEALS WITH MOST**

- Conflicts of Interest
- Acceptance of Gifts

## WHAT IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

- *Broadly speaking*, a conflict occurs when an official or board member takes an action or fails to take an action which would benefit them, a relative, or their business or employer
- *Examples:* voting or advocating as an official or board member on a matter:
  - that directly affects their home, job, or business, such as a variance or public improvement
  - that involves a family member
  - that will benefit a family member
  - that gives preference or an advantage to a vendor

## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT A CONFLICT IS?

- Section 21-4 A: “Every covered person must ...strive to act so as not to raise reasonable suspicion among the public that [you] may or [may be] likely to be engaged in conduct that is in violation of the public’s confidence and trust”
- Section 21- 4 C (1) “A covered person **must promptly recuse** from participating in a matter before the Village in which the covered person has an interest when acting on the matter or failing to act on the matter may benefit the [person]...financially, or **give the reasonable appearance of a conflict of interest or impropriety.**

## **CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?**

It's almost always a subjective judgment depending on the facts of a situation and the "appearance"

- The key phrase is **"give the reasonable appearance of a conflict of interest or impropriety."**
- What's a "reasonable appearance"? It's almost always a tough question, but if you're not sure, it means that your ethical instincts are good.

## WHAT IS A GIFT?

- Section 21-4 D (1) Money, a service, loan, travel, entertainment of a value of \$75 or more that is intended to influence you in the performance of your work
- Exceptions – section 21-4 D (2) – promotional items, complimentary catering at a widely attended village event, pens, mugs, hats, etc.
- **HOWEVER**, accepting more than one or two gifts within the \$75 limit in one year could stretch the permissible limits

## WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE?

- Ask the Ethics Board for an Advisory Opinion
- Email the Ethics Board [ethicsboard@vomny.org](mailto:ethicsboard@vomny.org)
- The EB cannot provide informal opinions or informal guidance beyond referring you to a code section. The EB will review a request for an Advisory Opinion at its regular monthly meeting. In an urgent situation the EB can meet to provide an expedited opinion.
- The EB publishes decisions of code violations and Advisory Opinions on its web page. They can provide guidance on conflict questions.



## **ARE EB MEETINGS PUBLIC?**

- EB meetings are public, but the EB goes into Executive Session to discuss and deliberate matters that are confidential under Open Meetings Law section 105
- Examples: Complaints, Advisory Opinions, and matters that involve legally protected privacy, employee or official discipline, and possible referrals for prosecution

## **HOW BUSY ARE WE?**

In 2024 the Ethics Board received and deliberated 13 complaints, 6 advisory opinions and one request for a waiver of a code provision

**THANK YOU**

**VOM ETHICS BOARD**

**Dan Karson – Chair  
Susan Berenzweig  
Lauren Perone Jones  
Chari Topol-Allison  
Patti Trifiletti**

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