

Ethics Board
Village of Mamaroneck
Request For Waiver of Ethics Code Section

Waiver Request 2023-01

In an email dated June 1, 2023, and received by the Ethics Board on June 2, 2023, Mr. Yusef Yizar applied to the Ethics Board for a waiver, pursuant to Section 21-15 A of the Code of Ethics. Mr. Yizar requested that the Ethics Board waive the prohibition contained in section 21-4 E (1) which prohibits the hiring by the village of a relative of an elected official. Mr. Yizar is an employee of the office of the Harbor Master. Mr. Yizar's sister is Leilani Yizar-Reid, an elected trustee of the Village.

Mr. Yizar attached to his request the following documents:

- The "Job Opening-Laborer, Harbor Department" posted by the office of the Human Resources Manager, dated March 20, 2023
- Mr. Yizar's Application for Employment dated March 23, 2023
- A letter signed by Jeff LaRusso, Harbor Master, supporting Mr. Yizar's request for waiver

The Code of Ethics Section 21-15 Waivers, provides:

- A. Upon written application by a Village of Mamaroneck officer or employee and/or if applicable, written approval by his or her department head, the Ethics Board may grant the applicant, or his or her private employer or business, a waiver of any of the provisions of the Code of Ethics, except the inducement of violations provisions; section on appearances by the municipal official's private employer or business; sections on transactional, applicant, annual disclosure of this chapter where the Ethics Board finds that waiving such provisions would not be in conflict with the purposes and interest of the Village of Mamaroneck, provided, however, that no such waiver shall permit any conduct or interest otherwise prohibited by Article 18 of the General Municipal Law.

The Ethics Board examined the documents submitted by Mr. Yizar and interviewed him and Mr. LaRusso in an Executive Session of the meeting of November 29, 2023.

Based on 1) the statements made by Mr. Yizar and Mr. LaRusso in response to questions by members of the Ethics Board; 2) the stated requirements of the posted position; 3) Information provided by the Village Human Resources office regarding the job and the responsibilities of the position of trustee, the Ethics Board finds that 1) Mr. Yizar appears to possess the qualifications for the job to which he was appointed; 2) the job of Laborer does not present a conflict of interests with the position of trustee, or be in conflict with the purposes and interest of the Village.

The Ethics Board, therefore, approves the application for waiver.

November 29, 2023