

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 06-28

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING the provisions on Gifts under the Queen Anne s County Ethics Ordinance, Chapter 8 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne s County, Maryland;

FOR THE PURPOSE of including lobbyists among those persons from whom a County official or employee may not accept gifts and clarifying the exceptions provisions of Section 8-12 of the Ethics Ordinance.

BY AMENDING Section 8-12 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne s County, Maryland.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE S COUNTY, MARYLAND that Section 8-12 A. and B. of the Code of Public Local Laws be amended to read as follows:

§ 8-12. Gifts.

A. Gifts from specified persons prohibited.

~~Subject to~~ Except as permitted by Subsection B of this section, a County official or employee may not accept any gift of more than \$20 in value (or cumulative gifts totaling more than \$100 in any one year) from any person who:

- (1) has a contract with, or is negotiating a contract with, the County; or who
- (2) is subject to regulation by the official or employee's agency; or
- (3) is a lobbyist subject to registration under § 8-14 of this chapter.

unless the Commission determines that the gift would not present a conflict of interest.

B. Qualified exceptions.

~~Gifts allowed include~~ Subject to the provisions of Subsection C of this section, the following gifts are permitted:

- (1) Meals or beverages in the presence of the donor, not to exceed \$20 in value;
- (2) Ceremonial gifts or awards of insignificant monetary value;

- (3) Unsolicited gifts of nominal value;
- (4) Trivial items of informational value;
- (5) Tickets or free admission extended to an elected official from the person sponsoring or conducting the event, as a courtesy or ceremony to the office, to attend a charitable, cultural, or political event;
- ~~(6) A specific gift or class of gifts that the Commission exempts on a written finding that acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be detrimental to the impartial conduct of County business;~~ and
- ~~(7)~~ (6) Gifts from family members.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Bill shall take effect on the forty-sixth (46th) day following its passage.

INTRODUCED BY: Ben Cassell

DATE: September 5, 2006

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: September 26, 2006 @ 8:00 pm

VOTE: 5 Yea 0 Nay

DATE OF ADOPTION: October 17, 2006

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 2, 2006