

# Town of La Plata

*Mayor*  
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*Council*  
R. Wayne Winkler  
C. Keith Back  
Lynn D. Gilroy  
Joseph W. Norris

*Town Manager*  
Daniel J. Mears

*Assistant Town  
Manager*  
Michelle D. Miner



August 28, 2015

Councilman Joseph W. Norris  
100 Oak Avenue  
P.O. 1947  
La Plata, Maryland 20646

RE: Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion

Councilman Norris:

The Ethics Commission of the Town of La Plata reviewed your Advisory Opinion request asking “the Ethics Commission to rule whether I must recuse myself from deliberations and voting on the Zoning Text Amendment being proposed by the hospital. I live across the street from the areas that will be affected by the amendment. My home may be impacted by any decision made”.

## Background

On July 9, 2015 University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center and its related entities submitted a formal request for a zoning text amendment to Town Code. The request, if granted, would permit a parking lot, as an accessory use to a hospital or hospital campus, on a separate parcel or lot in residential zones when the property is adjacent to a hospital or hospital campus.

## Consideration

Advisory Opinions are reviewed in accordance with Chapter 20 of the Code of the Town of La Plata, General Provisions (§§ 5-101 through 5-1001) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, La Plata Ethics Commission Procedures, and information relevant to the Commission’s determination.

## Opinion

The Ethics Commission reviewed the request for Advisory Opinion and concluded, based on review of the law, specifically Title 5 Maryland Public Ethics Law, §§ 5-101 (t) of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §20-5 (C) (1) of the Code of the Town of La Plata and has concluded that the requestor would be in violation of Chapter 20 Ethics by participating in the legislative process for the Application for Zoning Text Amendment being proposed by the hospital.

## Ethics Commission of the Town of La Plata

  
James F. Di Misa

  
Wesley E. Hughes, Jr.