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QUESTION 1

Scenario

You are a planner for a city planning department and you have an old friend who runs a planning consulting firm in the same city. Your friend submits a competitive proposal to work as a consultant for your department to you on Friday and while in your office, asks you to be her guest for dinner at a very fancy restaurant on Saturday evening. What might you do if you actually have no influence about awarding the contract?

A. Answer: See the solution below

Correct Answer: A

You should worry about the appearance of a conflict of interest, even if the invitation for dinner is not intended to enhance your friend's chances of being awarded the contract (Rules of Conduct 5, 8, 19) Because you have no influence about the decision to award the contract, which would include having no professional contact with the decision-makers, you might have dinner with your friend, but it might be safer to postpone the dinner until after the contract has been awarded.

QUESTION 2

You are the planning director in a small town. Your husband runs the local country club and is applying for construction of a new swimming pool. This application will be reviewed by the planning commission for approval. Often, planners who are faced with this type of dilemma:

- A. File for divorce
- B. File for bankruptcy
- C. Hire a consultant
- D. Quit their jobs

Correct Answer: C

Note that questions on the exam are not likely to be this easy.

QUESTION 3

Scenario

A site application is complete and is about to go before the planning commission. As a member of the planning staff, you believe there is the appearance of a conflict of interest for a planning commissioner who owns property near the proposed site and stands to benefit from the increase in property value that the new development is projected to generate. What might you do?

A. Answer: See the solution below

Correct Answer: A

First, consider what should already have happened before the application was about to go before the planning



commission. Clearly, you should know about any laws in your state or jurisdiction that apply to such a situation and should follow the law. The potential conflict should have been identified well before this. After noticing the conflict, based on office protocol, it must be decided who will approach (or confront) the commissioner about the conflict of interest. If your boss is unwilling to explain the conflict of interest, you must decide how you will handle this. You might ask the APA Ethics Officer for informal advice on what you should do (Procedure 2). Whoever brings the conflict to the attention of the commissioner should recommend that the commissioner recuse himself or herself from the planning commission meeting. Suppose the potential conflict only became apparent at the time of the meeting. At that point in time, you should explain the problem to the planning director. Then, the planning director and the commissioner might consult privately and decide what to do; if the law is clear, obviously the decision must be to follow the law. If the decision is made that the commissioner should recuse himself or herself from the decision-making process, then the commissioner should leave the room. Recusing oneself means more than just sitting there quietly. In addition, the commissioner must not engage in future discussions with the board or planning staff about the application (Ethical Principle 2). Suppose the law on what constitutes a conflict of interests is not clear or does not exist and suppose that the commissioner says that this is silly and that there is no conflict of interest. Then you might go to the jurisdictional attorney for guidance. If the commissioner continues to participate in the process, you should clearly state the conflict in your report (Rule of Conduct 19).

QUESTION 4

Who termed the word megalopolis?

- A. Paul Davidoff
- B. Saul Alinsky
- C. Sherry Arnstein
- D. Jean Gottmann

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 5

What percentage of households receive the long form of the US Census?

- A. 83%
- B. 17%
- C. 50%
- D. 25%

Correct Answer: B