

David VanLuven
Town Supervisor

Michael Hutter, Jr.
Chair

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Ethics Board



8 July 2023

Hon. David VanLuven, Supervisor
Town of Bethlehem
445 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054

RE: 2021 Amended¹ Annual Report

Dear Supervisor VanLuven:

Please accept this as the Annual Report from the Town of Bethlehem Ethics Board for 2021. Our Board entered 2021 with three members; the terms of Michael J. Hutter, Jr. and Theresa Schillaci expired at the conclusion of 2020. Mr. Hutter and Ms. Schillaci represent the very best in terms of quality of character and ethical behavior, and we are pleased that, in 2021, the Town Board re-appointed them to new terms at its organizational meeting. We note that Mr. Hutter, serving as Chair for 2021, presided over four Ethics Board meetings held on January 19, May 18, September 9 and September 14.

As you know, the Bethlehem Code of Ethics authorizes the Ethics Board to render advisory opinions to officers and employees of the Town, receive complaints, conduct investigations, and make recommendations to the Town Board regarding such complaints. In 2021, we received one complaint with two issues. We dismissed one issue after determining it fell outside the scope of the jurisdiction conferred upon the Board. With respect to the second issue, we determined there had been a violation of our Ethics Code and advised the Town Board of the same. In addition, at the request of the Town's Records Access Officer, we reviewed our records for information responsive to four (4) requests for information pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Law (Public Officers Law §87 et. seq.)*. Furthermore, in 2021, the Town Board requested a survey of State and municipal ethics laws to see if other governments have taken different approaches to nepotism, which we provided noting that the Town of Bethlehem's Code of Ethics currently contains a fairly comprehensive and specific provision pertaining to nepotism.

¹ This amendment to the 2021 Annual Report, submitted originally on September 23, 2022, corrects the Board Members' terms as referenced in

We stand ready to provide advice to Town officials and employees upon request, and otherwise carry out our duties under the Code of Ethics.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Hutter, Jr., Chair (2021)
Lisa M. Allendorph
Timothy C. Hannigan
Teresa A. Newcomb
Theresa Schillaci