

Shelby County Courthouse
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RUTH WOOLERY
STATE'S ATTORNEY

October 10, 2024

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Opinions Bureau
500 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to request an opinion on the following issue currently affecting Shelby County.

Question: Is it a conflict of interest for the commander of a volunteer dive rescue team, under the oversight of the county board public safety committee, to also be an elected member of the county board, if that individual does not serve on the public safety committee?

On July 18, 2023, the Shelby County Board passed Resolution No. 23-30 establishing the Shelby County Dive Rescue Team. This Resolution was later superseded by Resolution No. 24-13, which was approved and adopted on February 8, 2024. A copy of said Resolution is enclosed herewith. On April 11, 2024, Austin Pritchard was reinstated as commander of the Shelby County Dive Team under its new organization. Mr. Pritchard is running unopposed for a seat on the County Board in the upcoming election. Is there an inherent conflict of interest in serving as both the commander of the volunteer Shelby County Dive Team and as a member of the Shelby County Board?

Sincerely,

Ruth A. Woolery
Shelby County State's Attorney