



Press Release ***August 6, 1999***

For more information, contact:

Ohio Ethics Commission
(614) 466-7090

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ETHICS LAW RESTRICTS MAYOR'S PARTICIPATION

At its meeting this morning, the Ohio Ethics Commission advised that Columbus Mayor Greg Lashutka and his subordinates are prohibited, during the Mayor's remaining term of office, from participating in matters that affect Nationwide Insurance Company and its subsidiaries.

"The Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes impose significant restrictions upon the Mayor, as they would on any other public official or employee," explained Santiago Feliciano, Jr., Chair of the Commission. "This is particularly true in situations where the official or employee has accepted employment with a private company interested in matters before that official's public agency."

The advisory opinion also states that as long as the Mayor continues to comply with the described restrictions, the law does not prohibit him from taking the position with Nationwide after he leaves office. "The Mayor has disclosed his future employment and has indicated that he will not participate in matters that affect Nationwide," stated David E. Freel, Executive Director of the Commission. "The law requires that the Mayor and his subordinates not be involved. If the Mayor is required to act, he would be prohibited from assuming the job."

The opinion was issued as a result of a request from Janet Jackson, City Attorney for the City of Columbus, on behalf of the Mayor, due to the Mayor's announced acceptance of employment with Nationwide at the conclusion of his term of office.

The Ohio Ethics Commission is an independent agency of state government that has the power to provide ethics advice to public officials, among its other duties in interpreting and administering the Ohio Ethics Law for many state and local public officials and employees.

The Commission has been serving the public, and state and local governments, since its formation as part of the Ohio Ethics Law in 1973.