

**Opinion of the City of Rochester Board of Ethics**  
**Opinion Number 2018-7**  
**October 9, 2018**  
**C18-5**

**Overview**

On July 17, 2018, Mr. Silvano Orsi, President of the Little Italy Neighborhood Association, Inc. (LINA) submitted a complaint alleging that the Mayor and other City officials “intentionally misused” the grant funding process and “squandered a vital opportunity for the City and its struggling Lyell Avenue Corridor” in regards to a \$10 million downtown revitalization grant that was denied by Empire State Development. Specifically, Mr. Orsi alleges the City’s actions with respect to this grant were retaliatory in nature due to a 2017 legal dispute he settled with the City and directly impacted LINA’s ability to benefit from the grant proceeds.

**Applicable Code of Ethics Provisions**

Sections of the Code of Ethics alleged to have been violated:

*4. No City officer or employee, acting in the performance of his official duties, shall treat, whether by action or omission to act, any person more favorably than it is the custom and practice to treat the general public.*

**Opinion**

After a review of the information provided in the complaint and the written response from the City’s Chief of Staff, the Board determines there are no facts to support the allegation that Mr. Orsi was treated differently than the public at large regarding the Empire State Development grant application. Although appearing before the Board at its meeting, Mr. Orsi did not present any additional information to support his allegation. The Board therefore finds no violation of the Code of Ethics occurred with respect to this complaint.

**(Weir, Ginett, Steinbrenner, Scott)**