

Conflict of Interest
City of Leesburg
CDBG 19p-x-088-2-6075

One member of the Leesburg City Council resides in the project neighborhood. Rufus Sherman lives at 153 Magnolia Avenue and owns a vacant lot next door. He owns property on Pine Avenue extending from Magnolia to Pine-5 lots. Magnolia side is not in the target area. The property at 111 Pine Avenue is a lot being rented by a mobile home-owner. 147 Magnolia Avenue is a rental house that he owns. DCA questioned 197 Cedar Avenue (current address is 134 Cedar Avenue). This property is a lot being rented by a mobile home-owner. This property is not in the target area. Under CDBG regulations, status as an elected official, owning property in the target area and beneficiary of CDBG funding constitutes a conflict of interest. This interest must be publicly disclosed. The City of Leesburg must request a waiver from Georgia Department of Community Affairs based upon there being no direct financial benefit and the fact that Councilman Sherman will receive the same benefit of an improved sewer collection system as other residents in the neighborhood. Mr. Sherman must not vote on any matter concerning this project and continue doing so for the life of this project.