



**TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE ON

**CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD**

Please complete this application by typing or printing legibly in ink. Applications should be submitted to the Town Clerk (360 South County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480, via facsimile 561-838-5417, or via e-mail addressed to townclerk@townofpalmbeach.com) no later than 5 p.m., 11 calendar days prior to the Town Council meeting in which the appointment will be considered. Completion of this application requires the applicant to review certain Town documents as noted in this application. To review or obtain a copy of the documents please contact the Town Clerk's Office (561-838-5416). Please feel free to attach any additional background information to this application form. (Please be advised that members of the Code Enforcement Board must file an annual financial disclosure form per State law.)

Name: JOHN B. MCGOWAN, JR. Residence Address: 210 Esplanade Way, PB 33480  
Mailing Address: 210 Esplanade Way, PB Home Telephone: 561.444.2375  
E-mail Address: john@mcgowangrp.com Work Telephone: 610.585.2701  
I am a resident of the Town of Palm Beach JBJ (please initial) PGG

Please attach proof of Town of Palm Beach residency. Failure to attach proof of residency shall be grounds to reject your application. Proof of residency shall be either a copy of your Florida Driver's License matching the address of your residence as shown on this application, a copy of a utility bill in your name at the residence address shown on this application, or by providing an original, fully executed and notarized Declaration of Domicile with this application.

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Code Enforcement Board? (Please explain and attach additional pages if necessary)

Please see exhibit A

2. How many meetings of the Code Enforcement Board have you attended in the last year? NONE

3. If you have served on any boards/commissions/committees in the Town of Palm Beach or elsewhere, please list them and include details such as length of service, attendance record, etc.

I currently serve AS A member of The Underground Utility Task Force. My appointment was effective MAY 2020. I have attended All meetings.

4. Please indicate if there are any periods of time for which you will be unavailable for meetings.

I will make myself available whenever necessary.

5. Do you have any personal experience with the Code Enforcement Board in the Town of Palm Beach or other jurisdictions?(Please explain and attach additional pages if necessary)

Please see exhibit A

6. Are you a member of any of the following organizations? (Check all that apply)

- Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Palm Beach Civic Association
- Neighborhood Alliance of Palm Beach
- Citizens' Association of Palm Beach
- Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach
- North End Property Owners Association
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. Present occupation. Private Investor No. of years. 7

Employer. Retired

8. Past occupation(s). U.S. House of Representatives - Congressional Staff Assistant 5yrs  
Manufacturing Business Owner - CEO No. of years. 37

Employer(s). U.S. House of Representatives - Congressman Richard T. Schulze (PA)  
GAS BREAKER, INC & TAECO Fluid Systems, INC.  
The Thistle Group, INC.

9. Do you have a degree in, or have you taken courses in, any of the following fields of study: (Check as many as are applicable)

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture/Design
- Law
- Building Construction
- Municipal Planning
- Law Enforcement/Code Enforcement

Course in Constitutional LAW

10. Please provide details regarding your educational background:

Graduate, The George Washington University, 1978

Bachelors Degree, Public Administration

11. Why do you feel that you are qualified to serve on the Town's Code Enforcement Board? (Attach additional page if necessary)

See Exhibits A & B

12. To enable Town Council to consider potential conflicts of interest, please provide the following information regarding family members who live and/or work in the Town of Palm Beach, including your spouse, parents, siblings or children.

Family Member Name	Relationship	Address	Occupation	Employer
<u>Stephanie McLowan</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>210 Esplanade Way Palm Beach, FL</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>GAS BREAKER, INC.</u>

13. Have you ever been convicted of a crime or pled guilty or nolo contendere to a crime other than minor traffic violations? NO



14. If you are currently serving on a Town board, commission, or committee, please identify it in the space below and check the box that indicates you will resign from that position if you are appointed to the position you are seeking in this application.  
 I will resign from the Underground Utility Task Force if I am appointed to the position I am seeking in this application.  
board/commission/committee

15. In the event you are applying to be a Regular Member of the Code Enforcement Board and you are not successful, will you accept appointment as an Alternate Member of the Board should the Town Council wish to appoint you as an Alternate Member?  
 Yes  No

The following information is needed to facilitate Town reporting requirements in Florida Statute 760.80. Please check one in each category.

**RACE**

- African American
- Native American
- Asian American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic American
- Not known

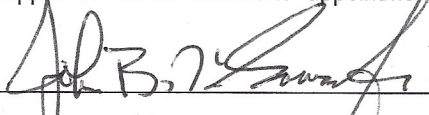
**GENDER**

- Male  Female

**PHYSICALLY DISABLED**

- Yes  No

I hereby certify that I have read the sections of the Town Code of Ordinances for the particular board/commission/committee that I have selected above and have noted the description of the board/commission/committee and its members' duties, and further I have read the regulations concerning absences and conflicts of interests. I certify the information given by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any falsification of material facts will be grounds for rejection of this application or dismissal after appointment.

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: February 22, 2022

*Please attach proof of Town of Palm Beach residency (as listed on page 1) with this application.*

**Please note that Board/Commission applications will expire on December 15 of each year.**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD**

Hears cases involving violations of the Town Code and ordinances and imposes administrative fines and other noncriminal penalties where a pending or repeated violation exists. Members must be residents and are appointed by Town Council on the basis of experience or interest in the fields of zoning and building control. The Board includes, whenever possible, an architect, business person, engineer, general contractor, realtor, subcontractor, general member, or person with experience in the field of public health. In addition, the Town Council may appoint two alternate members for the purpose of serving in the absence of any of the board members. Members (and alternate members) shall be appointed for terms of three years. A member of the code enforcement board shall not be appointed for more than two consecutive three-year terms, but shall be eligible for reappointment upon the lapse of nine months after the expiration of the member's second consecutive three-year term.

## EXHIBIT A

Application of **John B. McGowan, Jr.** for service on The Code Enforcement Board of The Town of Palm Beach Florida

February 22, 2022

- 1.) The Town of Palm Beach enjoys a nationwide reputation for being one of the most beautiful, well-organized, and orderly communities in the United States. The Town's reputation has been achieved through the adoption of a well thought out municipal code of rules and regulations that provide for the quiet enjoyment of all the residents. It is essential that these rules and regulations be followed by all the residents to ensure a peaceful, orderly, and tranquil environment. The Code Enforcement Board provides the citizens with a forum to seek a fair hearing to adjudicate any conflicts related to the enforcement of these codes and regulations. I am dedicated to maintaining this environment in the Town of Palm Beach which is my principal reason for wishing to serve as a member of The Code Enforcement Board.
- 5.) In the 1980's I was the first Chairman of the **Code Enforcement Board** of our 168-unit condominium community, Mountain View, in suburban Philadelphia. My commitment to the strict enforcement of the condominium documents rules and regulations led to my being elected as the first President of the condominium Board of Directors.
- 11.) Early in my career, I worked as a Staff Assistant to a United States Congressman, in Washington, D.C. and, in this position, was a Case Worker resolving constituent disputes with a variety of Departments and Agencies within the Federal government including the IRS, the Social Security Administration, The Veterans Administration and the Defense Department.

As the Chief Executive Officer of a mid-sized company, for more than 37 years, it was often my responsibility to be the ultimate arbiter in resolving employee conflicts and to enforce all corporate policies, rules, and regulations.

## EXHIBIT B

### BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN B. MCGOWAN, JR.

Former Chairman & CEO, The Thistle Group, Inc.

John Black McGowan, Jr. was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA on November 3, 1956. He was graduated from the Great Valley High School, Malvern, Pennsylvania in 1974 and the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. in 1978. He holds a Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) degree from the Elliott School of International Affairs.

He was associated with the natural gas and fluid process industries for more than 37 years. Mr. McGowan holds several US patents related to safety shut-off gas valve technology known as Excess Flow Valves (EFVs).

Mr. McGowan is the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Thistle Group, Inc. which was the holding company for Gas Breaker, Incorporated, a family-owned manufacturing concern. The Thistle Group also owned JAECO Fluid Systems, Inc. a manufacturer of pumps and valves used in the fluid process and agricultural irrigation industries.

In 1975, Gas Breaker developed the first commercially successful excess flow valve for use in the natural gas distribution utility industry. Gas Breaker is the dominate manufacturer of excess flow valves in North America with a market penetration of more than 70%.

Mr. McGowan served on several industry Technical Standards Committees for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), The American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), The American Gas Association (AGA) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Mr. McGowan was the Chairman of the Natural Gas Valve and Fittings Committee (501), of the Manufacturers Standardization Society of the Valve and Fittings Industry (MSS) for 22 years. In 1995, under his leadership, MSS created the first Standard (MSS SP-115) for Natural Gas Excess Flow Valves in the United States, setting the benchmark which has been followed by several other United States standards organizations and was ultimately adopted as the model for a US government regulation that took effect in 2006.

He is the past President of The Society of Gas Lighting in New York City – a group founded in 1875 and composed of gas industry CEO's and Senior Executives involved in the production, pipeline transportation and utility distribution segments of the natural gas industry.

He has received two Distinguished Service Awards from the American Gas Association (AGA) in Washington, D.C. for his contributions to the technical operating committees of the AGA.

In 2015, Mr. McGowan orchestrated the sale of Gas Breaker to the Hubbell Corporation a publicly traded multinational Fortune 500 company.

From 1974 until 1978, Mr. McGowan was employed by the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. as a Staff Assistant and Caseworker to Congressman Richard T. Schulze (retired) of Pennsylvania. In this position he served as the liaison on numerous Department of Defense projects which were being executed in the Congressional District. Mr. McGowan also handled constituent casework which required resolving disputes between government agencies and the public. These issues involved the IRS, Social Security and the Departments of Labor and Justice among others.

In 1985, Mr. McGowan was the first Chairman of the Dispute Resolution Board for the Mountainview Condominium Association in Wayne, Pennsylvania. This Board enforced the rules and regulations related to the operation of the 168-unit condominium complex. He was elected as the first President of the Association in 1986 and served in this capacity until 1987 when he sold the residence and was obligated to resign his position.

In 2005 Mr. McGowan was part of an investor group that raised \$30 million to create Penn Liberty Bank, now part of WSFS Bank, headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware. At the time, this was the largest capitalization raise for any start-up bank in the history of Pennsylvania. The group raised an additional \$14 million the following year. Penn Liberty was sold to WSFS bank in August 2016 for \$101 million realizing a 1.97 times book value ROI for its investors.

**Biography of John B. McGowan, Jr.**  
**Page two**

**Mr. McGowan was an elected Committeeman in Chester County Pennsylvania where he served for 6 years from 2008 through 2014.**

**Mr. McGowan served for 10 years on the Government Affairs Committee of the Chester County Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and has also served on the Board of Directors of the organization.**

**Mr. McGowan is a past President of the St. Andrews Society of Philadelphia, a Scottish philanthropic society founded in 1747 which provides academic scholarships to US college students to study in Scotland.**

**Mr. McGowan served on the Board of Directors of the Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) located in West Chester, Pennsylvania. CVIM is a private health clinic which annually provides more than 7 million dollars of medical and dental services to the working poor in Chester County Pennsylvania.**

**Mr. McGowan was also active in fundraising for of the Chester County Council, Boy Scouts of America, and the Upper Main Line YMCA. He is a member of numerous social clubs and organizations in Palm Beach County, Suburban Philadelphia Pennsylvania, Easton, Maryland and New York City. He enjoys sailing, boating, target shooting, and golf.**

**Mr. McGowan retired in 2017 and is now a private investor. He, and his wife, Stephanie, resides in the North End of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida.**