



EMWS

CONFIDENTIAL

July 17, 1998

[Redacted]

Re: Case No. 98032.Q (Travel)

Dear [Redacted]

On July 13, 1998, you called our office and asked whether the City of Chicago Governmental Ethics Ordinance prohibits your department from accepting an offer made to it by Company Alpha, a company with a contract to provide [Redacted] trucks to the City. Company Alpha offered to cover the reasonable costs of transportation, accommodations and board for two department employees to visit [Redacted] on [dates] to inspect the prototype of a [Redacted] truck that the Department has entered into a contract to purchase.

You explained to staff that Company Alpha is under contract to the City to provide the Department with refuse trucks. The contract was signed on [Redacted], 1998, and expires on [Redacted], 1999. The total contract price is \$[Redacted] million. The Department has selected two employees- Mr. A and Mr. B - to travel to [Redacted] to conduct the inspection.

While the contract with Company Alpha does not provide for a vendor-sponsored inspection, you stated that this type of inspection is standard practice in contracts of this type, as the purchaser must determine that the truck meets specifications before full-scale production begins. The trip itself is also necessary, and not just a matter of convenience, due to the impracticality of shipping a prototype truck to Chicago for inspection. Finally, you stated that although Mr. A and Mr. B had a role in the formulation of the contract with Company Alpha, it was limited to determining technical specifications on behalf of the Department.

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It is the opinion of staff, based on previous Board decisions, that the Ethics Ordinance does not prohibit the Department from accepting the offer of the vendor to pay the reasonable cost of transportation, accommodations and board for two department employees to inspect the prototype truck.

The staff opinion in this case is based upon the application of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the facts stated in this letter. If the facts presented are inaccurate, please notify us, as any change in the facts may alter our opinion.

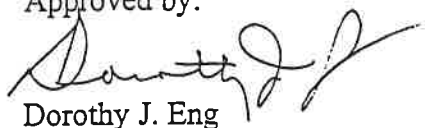
We appreciate your inquiry and your willingness to comply with the standards embodied in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. If you have any further questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



John H. Mathews  
Attorney/Investigator

Approved by:



Dorothy J. Eng  
Executive Director

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