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There are two other provisions of the Ordinance that are relevant in situations such as yours, where a city official's or employee's spouse does business or seeks to do business with the city or with a city contractor. Under section 2-156-130 of the Ordinance, entitled "Employment of Relatives," city officials and employees shall not

The provisions of the Ordinance that restrict a city official's or employee's "economic" or "financial" interest in city action, contracts, or business specifically do not extend to any interest of that official's or employee's spouse if that interest is related to the spouse's independent occupation, profession or employment (§ 2-156-010(1)).

On March 7, 1995, you spoke with Board of Ethics staff and asked whether the Governmental Ethics Ordinance places any restrictions on the business of a company in which your wife, (u) is a 50% owner of a company that deals in sales contract with (u) company that does business with the city. You stated that you have no ownership interest in your wife's company. In your city position, you supervise the provision of other city departments; you said you do not make decisions that could affect either the city business of the (u) company or, as far as you know, any city work in which your wife's company might become involved.

Dear :

Re: Case No. 95007.0

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March 9, 1995

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Board of Ethics
Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director
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exercise contract management authority over contracts with persons who employ or contract with their relatives (§ 2-156-130(b)); and city officials and employees shall not use their city position to assist any relative in securing employment or contracts with persons over whom they exercise contract management authority (§ 2-156-130(c)).

In the circumstances you have described, then, there is nothing in the Ethics Ordinance that prohibits ^{U's} company from doing business with the ^Z company. Further, there is nothing in the Ordinance that prohibits ^{U's} company from seeking or obtaining a contract directly with the City--as long as you hold no ownership interest in her company, and you do not use or permit the use of your city position to affect her company's business.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention and your concern to abide by the standards embodied in the Ethics Ordinance. We enclose a copy of the Ordinance for your convenience. If you have any further questions about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. Eng / Skunk Berlin
Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director

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The term "contract management authority" is defined in section 2-156-010(g) as "personal involvement in or direct supervisory responsibility for the formulation or execution of a city contract, including without limitation the preparation of specifications, evaluation of bids or proposals, negotiation of contract terms or supervision of performance."