



**BOARD OF ETHICS
CITY OF CHICAGO**

May 11, 2020

Case No. 20014.W, Karen Tamley, Waiver from the Ordinance's Post-Employment Provisions

On March 19, 2020, we received a written request from Karen Tamley for a waiver from the Post-employment provisions of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance ("Ordinance").¹ Ms. Tamley served as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities ("MOPD") from March 2005 until January 2020. She currently serves as the President and CEO of Access Living, a Chicago-based advocacy and service organization for persons with disabilities, a position she assumed on March 2, 2020.

Her request asked that, on behalf of Access Living and its clients, she be permitted to coordinate and directly communicate with the City/MOPD to ensure the provision of essential services to, and policy making decisions that include, people with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis.

Given the urgency of the situation, and that, by law, only the Board has authority to grant formal waivers, with appropriate conditions, restrictions, or limitations, that day, the Board's Chair and Legal Staff agreed unanimously this waiver is compellingly in the public interest and appropriate per §2-156-402(b)(2) of the Ordinance and Board Rule 9(2), and issued it, effective that day, subject to the Board's formal approval at its next meeting. This waiver means that, should Ms. Tamley need to directly interact and communicate with the City/MOPD on behalf of Access Living and its clients, she would be able to do so for as long as is appropriate to address the COVID-19 crisis. But the waiver is limited to such interactions and communications only.

At today's Board meeting, the Board formally voted 3 to 1 to approve this waiver. We hereby make it public, in accordance with §2-156-402(b) of the Ordinance.

[signed]

William F. Conlon, Chair

¹ These provisions, contained in §§2-156-100(b) and -105(a) of the Ordinance, prohibit former City employees, like Ms. Tamley, from: (i) assisting or representing any person, such as a new employer, in a business transaction involving the City, for one year, if they were personally and substantially involved in the subject matter of that transaction during their City; (ii) assisting and representing any person, such as new employer, with respect to any City contract if they exercised contract management authority over that contract during their City employment; and (iii) prohibit former department heads, like Ms. Tamley, from lobbying any City agency, department, employee, or official for two years after leaving City employment.