



BOARD OF ETHICS
CITY OF CHICAGO

MEMORANDUM
CONFIDENTIAL

Date: March 13, 2017

To: City Council Members; City Clerk; City Treasurer, City Department Heads; Other City Invitees

From: William F. Conlon, Chair, Board of Ethics

Re: Case No. 17014.A
Invitation from the Chicago White Sox to attend the Home Opener, April 3, 2017

Dear City Elected Officials and Department Heads:

It has come to the Board's attention that, on or around March 7, 2017, the Chicago White Sox extended an invitation to many or all of you for two (2) complimentary tickets to the team's home opener v. Detroit, at Guaranteed Rate Field on April 3, plus *hors d'oeuvres* and a cocktail reception. Because the value of this package is worth more than \$50 to any single recipient, and does not fall into any of the exceptions provided in the law (such as public appearance in connection with one's official City responsibilities), it is prohibited under the gift restrictions of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance.

Therefore, we have already advised the White Sox organization that the offer is prohibited, and are, by this Memorandum, advising you as well. Our understanding from the team is that some City governmental recipients may have already accepted the offer. If that is the case, we advise those of you who may have already accepted to immediately return the tickets and decline the team's offer.

Nothing would prohibit any of you from accepting a similar offer from a personal friend, or from purchasing tickets at face value to attend this game from the team or from www.mlb.com. This game is not sold out and is not a "high-demand" game to which the average person would expect to pay more than \$50 over face of tickets. However, the offer from the White Sox that was extended last week is prohibited by the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance because it is worth more than \$50 to a single recipient.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Board staff.