

Relatives
Aldermen

Confidential

xxxx xx, 2007

Joe Green
Alderman, 1000th Ward
123 Main Street
Chicago, IL 606xx

Re: Board of Ethics File No. 07030.Q

Dear Alderman Green:

This afternoon you telephoned our office and spoke with me. You stated that your niece, Ms. Blue, is an attorney who has a demonstrated commitment to public service and experience in development matters, particularly issues relating to [facilities]. You asked whether, under the City's ethics rules, you would be prohibited from hiring Ms. Blue as a member of your personal, aldermanic staff. I advised you that the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance does not prohibit you from doing so. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that advice and to set forth the legal basis for it.

Section 2-156-130(a) of the Ordinance ("Employment of Relatives or Domestic Partners") provides, in relevant part:

No official or employee shall employ or advocate for employment, in any City agency in which said official or employee serves or over which he exercises authority, supervision, or control, any person (i) who is a relative or domestic partner of said official or employee...provided that the prohibition in (i) applies to City Council Committee staff *but not to personal staff of an alderman.* (emphasis added).

Accordingly, under the exception explicitly set forth in Section 2-156-130(a) of the Ordinance, you are not prohibited from hiring your niece, Ms. Blue, as a member of your personal, aldermanic staff.

Board staff's conclusion and advice are based solely on the application of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the facts summarized in this letter. If these facts are incorrect or incomplete, please notify our office immediately, as any change may alter our conclusion.

Our office appreciates your bringing this question to us, and your interest in ensuring that your conduct conforms to the standards embodied in the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance. Should you have further questions about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Michael Haggerty
Deputy Director

Approved by:

Steven I. Berlin
Acting Executive Director