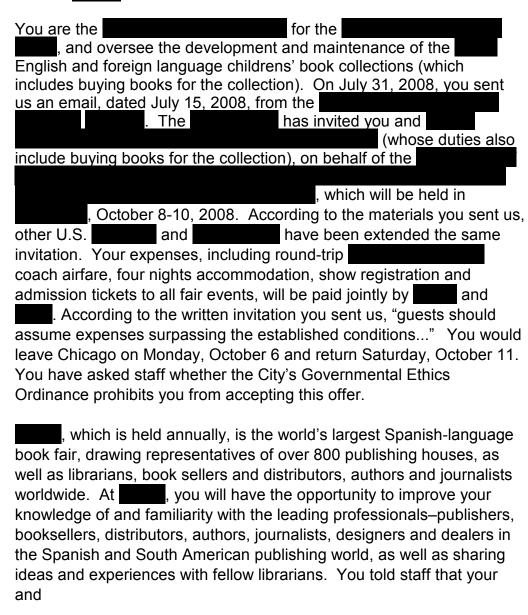
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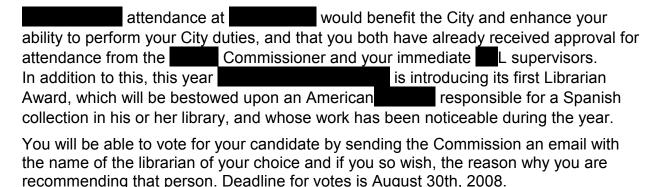


Re: Case No. 08039.Q

Dear Mr.



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From all recommendations, five finalists will be selected, and the winner will announced during the presentation of the librarians in LIBER, on the morning of October 8th. The award will consist of \$5,000 and a check will be given to the winner at that time. All 5 finalists will be invited to dinner in a trendy Barcelona restaurant on Thursday, October 9th.

Under § 2-156-040(d) of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance, City employees are not prohibited from accepting hosting expenses, including travel, meals and entertainment, if: (1) the expenses are reasonable; (2) the expenses are furnished in connection with public events, appearances or ceremonies related to official City business; (3) the expenses are furnished by the sponsor of the public event; and (4) the offer is not based upon any mutual understanding that the official decisions or actions of any City employee concerning the business of the City would be influenced.

Based on our review of the written invitation materials you sent us, staff concludes that all the conditions listed in § -040(d) of the Ordinance are met, and thus that the Ordinance does not prohibit you from accepting these travel and hosting expenses. Our conclusion is consistent with advice we have given to you and other similarly situated employees in the past. (See Case Nos. 06041.Q, 05049.Q, 04038.Q, 03039Q.and 02029.Q). As you noted in your email (and as we have advised you in past years), you will, as a matter of policy, seek the approval of the Mayor's Chief of Staff for this trip, seeing that it is for overseas travel, and the offer has been extended to two City employees, not one, as in some past years. Further, based on our review of the written invitation materials you sent us, there would be no prohibition on accepting the award if a Chicago librarian won the Librarian Award described above.

Staff's conclusion does not necessarily dispose of all issues relevant to this situation, and is based solely on the application of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the facts stated in this letter. If the facts stated are incorrect or incomplete, please notify us immediately, as any change may alter our conclusion. Other laws or rules also may apply to this situation. Be advised that City departments have the authority to adopt and enforce rules of conduct that may be more restrictive than the limitations imposed by the Ordinance.

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We appreciate your inquiry and your concern to abide by the standards embodied in the Ordinance. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Steven I. Berlin Acting Executive Director