

MEH



City of Chicago
Harold Washington, Mayor

July 17, 1987



Board of Ethics
Harriet McCullough
Executive Director

Case Number 87031.A

Robert C. Howard
Chair

CONFIDENTIAL

Janet Malone Morrow
Vice-Chair

Dear

Sol Brandzel
Rev. Harry Gibson
Nola Hicks
Vennie Lyons
Beatrice Pizana

The Board of Ethics has reviewed your request for an advisory opinion to determine whether the ethics laws will prohibit an alderman and/or a ward committeeman from receiving compensation from the "Citizens to Elect For Congress" for consulting services which are rendered in regards to your candidate slating session.

Suite 1320
205 West Randolph Street
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(312) 744-9660

The ethics laws currently in effect are set forth in Executive Order 86-1. This order regulates the conduct of City employees and appointed officials but does not regulate the conduct of elected officials or of persons such as ward committeemen whose positions are not with a specific City agency. Consequently the ethics laws currently in effect under Executive Order 86-1 would not affect your situation.

As of August 1, 1987, a new Ethics Ordinance will become effective. Set forth as Chapter 26.2 of the Chicago Municipal Code, the new Ordinance will regulate the conduct of elected officials as well as that of appointed officials and City employees and may therefore be relevant to the circumstances you describe insofar as they involve the services of an alderman. The current Board of Ethics is established to interpret the current laws in effect under Executive Order 86-1 and is not authorized to render a formal opinion concerning the application of the new Ordinance. However, we can offer informal recommendations concerning the application and effects of the new Ordinance.

The Ordinance would not prohibit an alderman from receiving compensation for consulting services rendered in regards to a congressional candidate slating session, because that matter does not relate to the business or affairs of the City. However, in compensating an alderman for consulting



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services there are several provisions in the new Ordinance which should be noted in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

These sections would require any alderman who assists you to: (1) refrain from voting on or participating in the decisionmaking process with regards to any business which you or your organization may have with the City of Chicago. (See Section 26.2-8(a), attached); (2) refrain from assisting you on matters concerning the operation or business of the City (See Section 26.2-5, attached); and (3) avoid disclosing confidential information obtained as a result of his/her position as an elected official of the City of Chicago. (See Section 26.2-7, attached).

If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,
Robert C Howard
Robert C. Howard
Chairman

RH/JS/jh [REDACTED]