



MEH

May 1, 1992

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Board of Ethics

Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director

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Vice Chair

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Room 303
320 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 744-9660

RE: 92015.Q

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

This letter confirms your April 29, 1992 conversation with Marilyn Hanzal of this office. On that date, you called to inquire whether Chicago's Governmental Ethics Ordinance prohibits you, as an employee of the City, from attending a community ward meeting sponsored by the Mayor on May 1, 1992. You stated that you are currently employed in the City's Department of [REDACTED]

You also indicated that if your attendance at this meeting requires that you leave your City department before the end of the normal workday, you will substitute previously earned or "comp" time for early departure. Additionally, you asked for guidance on how the political activity prohibitions apply to you.

In response to your question concerning the community ward meeting, please be advised that under the circumstances described, the Ordinance does not prohibit you from attending. With regard to the City's prohibitions on political activity, the Ordinance sections that apply to you as a [REDACTED] Department employee are found at section 2-156-140:

(a) No official or employee shall compel, coerce or intimidate any City official or employee to make, refrain from making or solicit any political contribution. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any official or employee from voluntarily making or soliciting an otherwise permissible contribution or from receiving an otherwise permissible voluntary contribution except as set forth in this section or in Sections 2-92-410, 2-156-320 as amended of the Municipal Code.

(b) No non-elected City employee or official shall knowingly solicit or accept any political contribution from a person doing business or seeking to do business with the City. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a non-elected City



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employee or official who is a candidate for public office may solicit or accept political contributions on behalf of his or her own candidacy from a person doing business or seeking to do business with the City, subject to the same restrictions as are applicable to elected City officials.

(c) No person with contract management authority shall serve on any political fundraising committee.

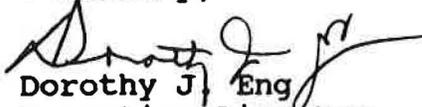
These provisions do not prohibit you and certain other City employees from voluntarily making political contributions. However, they do establish the following prohibitions:

1. An employee shall not force or pressure any other employee or official to make, refrain from making, or solicit political contributions.
2. Employees shall not solicit or accept political contributions from anyone doing business or seeking to do business with the City, unless an employee is seeking such contributions for his or her own candidacy for public office.
3. Employees who are personally involved in or have direct responsibility for the formulation or execution of any City contract shall not serve on any political fundraising committee.

This staff opinion is based on the application of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the facts stated in this opinion. If the facts presented in this opinion are incorrect or incomplete, please notify us immediately, as any change in the facts may alter our opinion.

We appreciate your willingness to comply with the ethical standards embodied in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. We enclose a copy of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance for your convenience. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director

Enclosure
92015.L