



CITY OF CHICAGO



BOARD OF ETHICS

## ADVISORY OPINION

Re: Case No. 23031.Q, Use or Disclosure of Confidential Information

Date: March 23, 2023

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In February 2023, a City official contacted the Board of Ethics, and asked whether the *Use or disclosure of confidential information* provision of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance, §2-156-070(a), would limit or prohibit that official from translating and posting, on an official City website, the text of a confidential report that purportedly had been prepared by a City agency. The official indicated that they felt a translation was necessary to make the substance of the report available on an equal footing to all citizens.

However, the text of the report had already been leaked to and published in full by the media. The Board advised the official that, in this case, the report was no longer confidential for purposes of the Ordinance and thus the Ordinance did not prohibit translating or republishing it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Berlin".

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Steven I. Berlin, Executive Director