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September 16, 1993

C O N F I D E N T I A L

[REDACTED]

Chicago IL 60666

RE: Case No. 93035.Q

Dear

On August 29, 1993, you contacted the Board of Ethics and asked if the Governmental Ethics Ordinance prohibits you from accepting travel and accommodations expenses to attend a seminar in France on the French High Speed Rail System. ACTIM, a French trade association, and the French government are joint sponsors of the event and will pay your expenses for the trip. After reviewing the facts presented, staff is of the opinion that nothing in the Ordinance prohibits you from attending this seminar or from accepting the travel and lodging offered. We set forth our analysis below.

You are the \_\_\_\_\_ Department of \_\_\_\_\_ and your job includes reviewing \_\_\_\_\_ transportation systems. You have also been appointed by the Mayor to serve on the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee for \_\_\_\_\_ a project of the Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT"). The Committee is considering the development of a high speed rail route from Chicago to \_\_\_\_\_

You, along with others, have been asked by \_\_\_\_\_ of IDOT to attend this seminar on the French High Speed Rail System. The seminar is a three-day event and will occur from October 11 to October 13, 1993. Your plane fare and accommodations for three nights will be paid for by the French government and ACTIM, a French trade association.



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The seminar will explore many facets of high speed rail, and will include the opportunity to observe a system that brings high speed rail services into an airport. Your attendance at this seminar will provide information that facilitates the performance of your City job, as well as your work on the IDOT Committee. Upon receipt of the information you provided, staff reviewed previous Board decisions on the issue. It concludes that your acceptance of the invitation to attend this seminar with expenses provided is not prohibited by the Ordinance.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention and your willingness to abide by the ethical standards embodied in the Ethics Ordinance. If the facts presented are incorrect or incomplete, please notify us immediately, as any change in the facts may alter our opinion. Should you have any further questions about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dorothy J. Eng  
Executive Director

cc: Susan Sher, Corporation Counsel

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