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May 7, 1996

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

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 96023.Q  
Prizes and Awards

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

On April 17, 1996, you requested guidance from the Board of Ethics concerning accepting an award. Staff advised you orally, and agreed to give the advice in writing. You provided us a brochure, which is the primary source of the information we recite here.

You said you, the [REDACTED] for the City's Department of [REDACTED] have been nominated for an award from [REDACTED] for Excellence in Governmental [REDACTED]. You asked whether you are prohibited from accepting it, if you are chosen from among the nominees. The award recognizes [REDACTED] in government [REDACTED] who distinguish themselves in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Nominees are judged by a committee of [REDACTED] using established criteria. If you were to receive this public service award from [REDACTED], you would be publicly acknowledged and receive a monetary award as well as an obelisk and certificate.

Staff notes that this award falls under subsection (d)(i) of the gifts section in the Ordinance, section 2-156-040, which expressly provides that nothing in the gifts section of the Ordinance, with certain exceptions not at issue here, prohibits an employee from receiving an award publicly presented in recognition of public service.

The staff concludes, based on previous Board advice and the information we received from you, that there is nothing in the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance that prohibits you from accepting the [REDACTED] award if you are chosen.

Note: This case is superseded as to cash awards by 2012 amendments to the ordinance

*gifts*



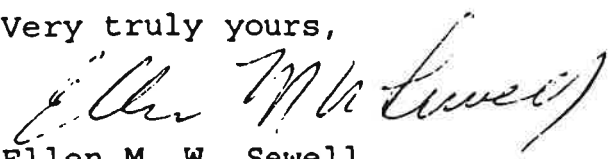
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Please be advised that the staff conclusions are based solely on our application of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the facts stated in this letter. Other rules or laws may apply, and a City department may adopt and impose rules stricter than those contained in the Ethics Ordinance. If any of the facts presented here are incorrect or incomplete, please notify us, as a change in the facts may alter our opinion.

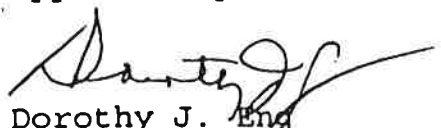
We enclose a copy of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance for your convenience. We appreciate your bringing this question to us and your concern to abide by the standards in the Ethics Ordinance. If you have any further questions about this or any other matter, please be sure to contact us.

Very truly yours,



Ellen M. W. Sewell  
Legal Counsel

Approved by:



Dorothy J. Eng  
Executive Director

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