



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Board of Ethics:

Steven I. Berlin
Executive Director

Miguel A. Ritz
Chair

Tiffany Chappell Ingram
Eileen B. Libby
Thomas J. McCarthy
Michael F. Quirk
Lisa M. Taylor
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Suite 500
740 North Sedgwick Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654-8488
(312) 744-9660
(312) 744-2793 (FAX)
(312) 744-5996 (TTY)
<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

CONFIDENTIAL

December 14, 2010

Alderman [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 606[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 1006[REDACTED].CNS, City-owned Property

Dear Alderman [REDACTED]

We have carefully reviewed the letter you sent to us, dated December 2, which we received via email yesterday. In it, you asked us to advise you whether your proposal regarding holding satellite Ward offices at [REDACTED] and other retail locations in your ward conforms to the provisions of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance. It is Board staff's conclusion that it does, provided:

1. You disclose the use of the space as a gift to the City from [REDACTED] etc. How you and/or the businesses value the gift it is less important than its treatment as a gift and its disclosure to the Board of Ethics, pursuant to § 2-156-040(f) of the Ordinance. This way, it will not be construed as a campaign contribution and would not need to be disclosed as a contribution; and
2. Because this would be, in effect, an extension of your official City Ward Office, no political speech or activity by you or your staff can occur during these Saturday office hours (we note that you have already recognized this in your letter). There can be no handing out or presence of campaign literature, no "political speechmaking," and the services transacted must be the same that ordinarily would be transacted during regular business hours at your [REDACTED] City office; and
3. You or one of your designees keep careful time records of your staff's attendance at these work events, as required by § 2-156-115 of the Ordinance, since they will be performing City work.
4. We cannot opine as to whether and how two specific sections of the Municipal Code covering aldermanic expense allowances may apply—if aldermanic expenses are even being used--§§ 2-8-050 and 2-8-051, nor whether, under any other relevant municipal, state or federal law, any use of City-owned property for these purposes would be allowable. Thus, we advise you to consult either with the City's Law Department or your own counsel to ensure that this proposed use of any City-owned property would conform to any other relevant laws or ordinances.



3

Case No. 1006●CNS
December 14, 2010
Page 2

Our conclusions are based on the facts you provided in your letter and by telephone. If there are any facts that were not brought to attention, please inform us, as they may change our conclusion. We have the authority to interpret and advise you only under the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to advise you, and your conscientiousness and your creativity. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours very truly,



Steven I. Berlin
Executive Director