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CONFIDENTIAL

November 18, 1997

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Alderman  
121 North LaSalle  
City Hall - Room

**RE: Case No. 97034.Q**

Dear Alderman

I have been advised by my Deputy, Mr. Berlin, of your question concerning the permissibility, under the Ethics Ordinance, of acquiring certain outside business interests. [DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS IN QUESTION.]

As you know, there is currently no provision in the Ordinance that per se prohibits any official from having outside employment or business interests. However, there are a number of provisions that affect what officials can and cannot do if they have outside business interests. Therefore, knowledge of these provisions is essential in order to assure that your conduct complies with the standards that apply in these circumstances.

To assist you in understanding these provisions, for your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of a written opinion that provides a good overview of the law on outside business interests. I am also forwarding a summary that identifies the specific provisions as well as some of the most commonly recognized restrictions that apply to those with outside business interests. The summary is not all-inclusive. Additionally, please note that neither document addresses the recently adopted requirements that a council member must disclose and abstain from voting on matters before council if he or she has a business relationship with the person that has the matter pending. (See §2-156-080 (b)(2).)

Although you are not prohibited by the City's Ethics Ordinances from having an interest in this business, you must restrict your activity to comply with the requirements of the various provisions of the Ordinance that apply to outside business interests.

NEIGHBORHOODS



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This opinion is general in nature because the question you presented to us is general and not fact-specific. If you have a factually specific situation that requires assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Additionally, please be advised that this opinion is based solely on the application of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance. There are other laws or rules that apply to elected officials.

Very truly yours,

  
Dorothy J. Eng  
Executive Director

Enclosures: Case No. 93013.Q  
11/97 SB:OE-97.SUM

DJE/cb/ald.q