



BOARD OF ETHICS CITY OF CHICAGO

Board Case No. 20021.W

**Re: Waiver of the Post-Employment Restriction, §2-156-100
Granted August 17, 2020**

On August 17, 2020, after considering a petition from Ms. Sophia Arteaga for reconsideration (which included supporting materials from her potential employer and her manager and her manager's manager within City government), the Board granted a waiver from the Governmental Ethics Ordinance's on-year "revolving door" post-employment subject matter ban to her. Ms. Arteaga is a Business Consultant Supervisor in the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP). This waiver would enable her to accept as position as a Business Analyst with Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI), a City vendor with the Department of Assets and Information Services (DAIS), and assist CAI in improving the electronic business licensing services it provides to BACP through the IRIS Desktop and Chicago Business Direct software programs.

Pursuant to §2-156-402 of the Ordinance, the Board may grant any current or former City employee or official a waiver from compliance with respect to the following provisions of the Ordinance: (i) §2-156-142(a) (gifts) to the extent the waivers apply to material or travel expense for meetings; (ii) §§2-156-100 and 2-156-105 (post-employment restrictions); (iii) §2-156-110 (financial interest in City business); and (iv) §2-156-111(d) (the reverse revolving door restrictions) as to matters related to a city official's or employee's immediate former employer or client.

In order for the Board to grant a waiver, a current or former city employee or official must request it in writing. The request must include: (i) the name of the requestor; (ii) the requestor's agency; (iii) the requestor's title; (iv) the requestor's responsibilities; (v) a detailed description of the situation; and (vi) permission for the Board or its staff to communicate with third parties as necessary and appropriate for the Board to determine whether to the grant or deny the waiver. The waiver itself, if granted, shall be made public in a manner prescribed by the Board. However, the request and any information or documents related to the request or the Board's determination shall not be made public and shall be and remain subject to the Ordinance's and Board's rules on confidentiality.

After considering the letters of support submitted on Ms. Arteaga's behalf, requesting clarification from BACP, and hearing testimony from both Ms. Arteaga, her manager, and her manager's manager, the Board voted 5-0 (with 2 absences), to grant her the waiver of the one-year subject matter prohibition in §2-156-100 of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance.

In reaching its determination, the Board considered several factors, including, but not limited to, (1) the benefits to the City and the public if the waiver were to be granted to Ms. Arteaga; (2) whether her

expertise and experience make her uniquely qualified for the position with CAI; (3) the City's relationship with CAI; (4) whether other companies similar to, or in competition with CAI would be harmed if the waiver were granted; and (5) whether granting the waiver would create a conflict of interest between the Ms. Arteaga and the City.

The Board concluded that Ms. Arteaga's expertise and experience with software provided by CAI are unique, and that it is compellingly in the public interest that the Board grant this waiver.