



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Board of Ethics

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JLM

May 18, 2001

CONFIDENTIAL

[Mary], Deputy Commissioner
Department of [X]
[]
Chicago, IL 606[]

**Re: Case No. 01023.Q
Gifts**

Dear [Mary]:

On May 17, 2001, you contacted the Board. You stated that the City is sending a delegation of aldermen and employees of the Department of [X] to a meeting of the International Council of [] in Las Vegas, Nevada from May 20, 2001 to May 23, 2001. You stated that the employees' airfare, lodging and meals will be paid by the City, and that the aldermen's airfare will be paid by the City. You stated that, in addition to this delegation, five other aldermen are planning to attend the event at their own expense. You stated that the purpose in attending this meeting is to promote continued economic development by attracting[] developments to various locales throughout the City.

You further stated that all of the City employees and officials who are planning to attend the meeting have been invited to attend a reception on May 20 sponsored by the Council, as well as receptions and/or dinners sponsored by other attendees, specifically: a cocktail reception sponsored by [Company Alpha] on May 21, a reception and dinner sponsored by [Company Beta] on May 21, a reception sponsored by [Company Gamma] on May 22 and a reception sponsored by [Company Delta] on May 22. You stated that the purpose in attending these receptions would be to continue to network with national retailers and other attendees in order to promote the City as a site for development. You asked whether, under the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance, the aldermen and City employees could accept invitations to these receptions and/or dinners, the dollar value of each being unknown to you, but possibly exceeding fifty dollars.

Based on the facts you have provided and the reasoning followed by the Board in previous cases, staff concludes that nothing in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance prohibits the aldermen and City employees who are attending the International Council of [] meeting from accepting invitations to the dinners and/or receptions listed above.



Case No. 01023.Q
5/17/01
Page 2

JHM

Staff's opinion is not necessarily dispositive of all issues relevant to this situation, but is based solely on the application of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the facts stated in this opinion. If the facts stated are incorrect or incomplete, please notify us immediately, as any change may alter our opinion. Other laws or rules also may apply to this situation. Be advised that City departments have the authority to adopt and enforce rules of conduct that may be more restrictive than the limitations imposed by the Ethics Ordinance.

We appreciate your inquiry and your concern to abide by the standards embodied in the Ethics Ordinance. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Michael Haggerty
Deputy Director

Approved by:

[Signature]
Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director

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