



August 28, 1987

City of Chicago
Harold Washington, Mayor



Board of Ethics
Harriet McCullough
Executive Director

Case Number 87072.A

Robert C. Howard
Chair

Janet Malone Morrow
Vice-Chair

Sol Brandzel
Rev. Harry Gibson
Nola Hicks
Vennie Lyons
Beatrice Pizana

Suite 1320
205 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 744-9660

Dear

The Board of Ethics has considered your request for an advisory opinion to determine whether City officials and employees may purchase property at the Scavenger Sale. We conclude that such purchases by City officials and employees are permissible under the Ethics Ordinance.

Section 26.2-11 of the Ordinance prohibits employees and elected officials from purchasing any property that is sold for taxes or assessments unless the property is sold pursuant to a process of competitive bidding following public notice. As the requisites of this exception, notice and competitive bidding, are assured under the provisions of Section 235 of the Revenue Act (the Scavenger Act), City employees and officials may bid for and purchase property offered at the Scavenger Sale.

However, you should note that employees and officials who are privy to non-public information concerning the Scavenger Sale property should abstain from bidding on such property in accordance with Section 26.2-7 of the Ethics Ordinance. This section states that no official or employee shall use or disclose, other than in the performance of his official duties and responsibilities, confidential information gained in the course of or by reason of his position or employment.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Board of Ethics at 744-9660.

Sincerely,

Sol Brandzel
Sol Brandzel
Chairman

MA/jh

