

*Aldermen  
Representation*

February 5, 2002

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Alderman [John        ]  
21 N. LaSalle St.  
Room [                    ]  
Chicago, IL 60602

**Re: Case No. 02003.Q**

Dear Alderman [John],

On January 29, 2002, you requested a staff opinion from the Board of Ethics asking what restrictions, if any, the Ethics Ordinance would place on your participation in a potential class action lawsuit against the City as the named representative of the class. Board staff orally advised you of its advice and conclusion. On February 1, 2002, you requested written verification of our counsel. Pursuant to your request, we are sending this letter as confirmation of our earlier advice and conclusion.

In the Redistricting Process Ordinance, enacted on June 6, 2001, the Chicago City Council expressly recognized its obligation to abide by state and federal legal and constitutional guidelines in drawing a new ward map for the City of Chicago. Various voters organizations have expressed dissatisfaction with the results of redistricting, and a number of them have filed class action suits against the City seeking injunctive relief. Other similarly situated organizations are considering such lawsuits. One such organization has asked you to be the named representative of the class if they file suit. You have stated that you will receive no money, or any other economic benefit, from your participation in the suit as a named representative of the class.

Based on the facts indicated in this letter and on your conversations with the Executive Director of this agency, staff concludes that the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance does not prohibit you from serving as the named representative of the class in a redistricting class action lawsuit against the City.

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 letter. 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.

We appreciate 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 ]  
John H. Mathews  
Legal Counsel

Approved by:

[Signature ]  
Dorothy J. Eng  
Executive Director

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