



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

[REDACTED]

Case No. 87064.A

Dear [REDACTED]

We have received your request for an advisory opinion to determine whether the Ethics Ordinance will prohibit Co. B from inviting aldermen to the Event A [REDACTED] and/or Event B [REDACTED]

It is the understanding of the Board that the Event A [REDACTED] is a program designed to honor two thousand (2,000) [REDACTED] students from the Chicago public school system who maintain a positive attitude towards education and a commitment to the "Say No to Drugs" program. The [REDACTED] program consists of the public recognition of these students' contributions to the community, a free box lunch and tickets to attend [REDACTED] baseball game [REDACTED]. You have indicated that the aldermen who are invited to this event will be introduced to the spectators; and will receive a free box lunch and complimentary tickets to watch the game in the "skybox". It is also the understanding of the Board that the invitation that will be extended to the aldermen to attend the showing of Event B [REDACTED] does not involve any benefit to the aldermen other than the ability to see the preview exhibition.

The box lunch and complimentary tickets to the [REDACTED] game constitute a "gift" as defined by Section 26.2-1(k) of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. The propriety of the acceptance of these gifts will therefore be judged in accordance with Section 26.2-4(b) and (c) of the Ordinance (attached). Section 26.2-4(b) prohibits City officials from accepting gifts with the understanding that their actions regarding City business will be influenced. This section explicitly states that a non-monetary gift having a value of less than \$50 does not involve such an understanding. Similarly, Section



Page 2

August 11, 1987

26.2-4(c) prohibits City officials from accepting gifts from persons who have an economic interest in a specific City business unless such gift has a value of less than \$50. In so far as the box lunch and complimentary tickets to the [redacted] game are valued at less than \$50, this section will not present a barrier to the aldermen who wish to accept Co.'s invitation to participate in the Event A.

Similarly, the Board of Ethics concludes that Co.'s invitation to aldermen to attend Event B [redacted] is also a "gift" valued at less than \$50 and is therefore a gift which the aldermen may accept in accordance with the provisions of the Ethics Ordinance.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter please contact the Board at 744-9660.

Sincerely,

*Judith Scully*  
Judith A.M. Scully  
Deputy Director