

7/2/90



MEMORANDUM

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

To: [REDACTED]
From: Dorothy J. Eng, Deputy Director
Board of Ethics *YJC*
Re: Case No. 89146.Q
Date: October 9, 1990

Board of Ethics
J. B. DeWilde
Executive Director
Albert F. Hofeld
Chair
Angeles L. Eames
Vice Chair
Margaret Carter
Russell Hardin
Marlene O. Rankin
Catherine M. Ryan

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On September 29, 1989, you wrote to the Board of Ethics to ask whether working as an investigator for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners is a "political activity" as defined in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. Your question arose in regard to a Chicago **CITY EE** [REDACTED] who was detailed to what was then the [REDACTED] and who had also worked as an investigator for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners during the previous election year.

At the time of your letter, [REDACTED] of the Municipal Code prohibited employees of DEPT. K from engaging in political activity as defined in the Ethics Ordinance. Currently [REDACTED] (prior [REDACTED] similarly prohibits all employees of DEPT. K [REDACTED] from engaging in such political activity.

You stated that during the time the city ee [REDACTED] worked for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, he/she used compensatory time or furlough days. According to a spokesperson in the Investigations Division of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, the job of investigators is to serve as troubleshooters at the election sites: to make sure things run smoothly, to provide security, to intercede if one of the election judges is having difficulty. The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners is a non-partisan office and its investigators serve in a non-partisan capacity.

The definition of political activity in § 2-156-010 (prior code § 26.2-1) states in relevant part: "(8) Acting as recorder, watcher, challenger or similar officer at the polls on behalf of a political party or a candidate in an election." However, since the duties of an investigator at the polls for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners are entirely non-partisan, such activity would not constitute political activity.



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Therefore, a staff member of (DEPT. K) [REDACTED] would be allowed, under the previous regulation as well as the current, to serve as an investigator for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners without violating the prohibition against political activity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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