

EMUS



Advisory Opinion  
Case No. 97032.A

City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Date: December 11, 1997

Board of Ethics

Re: Cash Contributions

Dorothy J. Eng  
Executive Director

Recently-adopted amendments to the Campaign Financing Ordinance (effective October 11, 1997) include a provision entitled "Cash Contributions," which states:

Darryl L. DePriest  
Chair

No person shall make any cash contribution to any candidate in an amount in excess of \$250.

Angeles L. Eames  
Vice Chair

§ 2-164-041.

Eileen T. Corcoran  
Emily Nicklin  
Martin E. O'Donovan  
Michael F. Quirk

Since the passage of this section, a number of employees and officials have inquired about the meaning of "cash," which is not defined in the Ordinance. In response to these inquiries, staff has asked the Board to determine whether money orders and cashier's checks fall under the intended meaning of "cash" in this provision.

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Having reviewed the various monetary instruments by which campaign contributions can be made, the Board determines that "cash," within the intended meaning of § 2-164-041, includes money orders and cashier's checks. This section therefore prohibits a person from making any contribution by cashier's check or by money order in excess of \$250.

The Board notes that additional documentation as to the source of a contribution by money order or cashier's check does not take it out of this category.

*Darryl L. DePriest*  
Darryl L. DePriest  
Chair

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