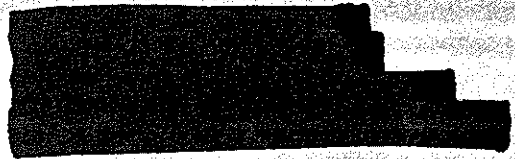




City of Chicago
Harold Washington, Mayor

October 7, 1987



Board of Ethics
Harriet McCullough
Executive Director

Case Number 87080.A

Sol Brandzel
Chair
Rev. Don Benedict
Margaret Carter
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Rev. A. Patterson Jackson
Mary Milano
Marlene Rankin
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 the outside pursuits of members of the Commission on Animal Care and Control constitute a conflict of interest with their duties to that agency. In your letter of August 25 to the Board, you stated that the enabling ordinance of the Commission required its membership to consist of representatives of various public and private sector interests, and expressed concern over the attitudes and predispositions brought to the Commission by its membership due to such external employment.

These outside perspectives, however, are what were intended to be introduced into the deliberations of the Commission and are proper under Chicago's Ethics Ordinance. The Ordinance prohibits decision-making with respect to private economic interests, not the general policy preferences you have described. Your example of a Commission member who represents the Health Department and is influenced by the policies or practices of the Health Department is not a conflict of interests under the Ordinance. Section 26.2-8(a) of the Ordinance states:

No official shall make or participate in the making of any governmental decision with respect to any matter in which he has an economic interest distinguishable from that of the general public.

Additionally, the Ordinance contains no prohibitions against officials appointed to represent private interests having other contact with the City in the ways you have described: a veterinarian on the Board may also have a veterinary hospital in Chicago which is inspected and licensed by the City annually.



Page 2

October 7, 1987

Therefore, as long as the members of the Commission on Animal Care and Control continue to avoid participating in decisions which might affect their private economic interests, such dual roles as you have described are proper under the Ethics Ordinance.

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

Sincerely,


S. Brandzel
Chairman

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