



**BOARD OF ETHICS
CITY OF CHICAGO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

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**AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2020, THE BOARD OF ETHICS WILL ENFORCE THE BAN ON
LOBBYING BY ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM THE STATE OR OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT IN ILLINOIS**

The amendment by which the City Council enacted §2-156-309 to the Governmental Ethics Ordinance* took effect on April 14, 2020. It remains in full force and effect. The Board of Ethics has been monitoring compliance with this provision. However, a proposal was submitted to the City Council in March that would have allowed at least one registered lobbyist to continue to lobby while holding an elected office in another unit of local government in Illinois. While it remained pending, the Board delayed enforcement of the law as to those affected individuals. Sufficient time has now elapsed for any amendment process to have occurred; the Board has now confirmed there will be no changes to §2-156-309. In order to give individuals affected by this provision time to make necessary arrangements for the transition of client responsibility to others, or to resign from their elected post(s), the Board will commence enforcement of this provision beginning on October 1, 2020.

**This section provides: 2-156-309. Lobbyists holding elected office. No elected official of the State or a unit of local government in the State, other than the City, may lobby the City Council, or any City agency, department, board or commission (for purposes of this subsection "City"); provided that nothing in this Section shall preclude (1) any such elected official from appearing in their official capacities before the City for the purpose of explaining the effect of any legislative or administrative matter pending before the pertinent City body, (2) any such elected official from appearing without compensation or on behalf of their constituents in the course of their duties as an elected official, (3) any such elected official who is an attorney from providing legal representation to any person seeking quasi-judicial, administrative or legislative action before the City, or (4) any such elected official from engaging in any political activity.*