

met

July 3, 1991

C O N F I D E N T I A L

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 91064.Q

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing in response to your request for an opinion on whether travel expenses offered to your department could be accepted under the provisions of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. After reviewing the materials you forwarded and past opinions of the Board, it is the staff's opinion that the Ordinance does not prohibit your department from accepting the travel assistance you described.

You informed us that your department is seeking to send one of its staff members to two consecutive [REDACTED] conferences [REDACTED] this summer-- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Toward this end, your department applied for a grant of federal funds from a [REDACTED] program administered by the S [REDACTED]. S [REDACTED] is an organization of public sector agencies, and provides these funds to assist municipalities in attending sessions that provide information on [REDACTED].

According to information submitted to us on June 26, 1991, you indicated that S [REDACTED] is willing to pay airfare for one member of your staff to attend the conferences. You, Mr. R [REDACTED] probably would be the staff member chosen to go. You were both concerned because the organization providing the funding, S [REDACTED], is not the sponsor of either conference. Because S [REDACTED] was not sponsoring the event, you questioned whether acceptance of the assistance was permissible under the Ethics Ordinance.



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Board of Ethics

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Executive Director

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[REDACTED]
July 3, 1991

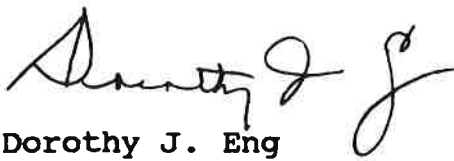
Page 2

The copy of the request for [REDACTED] Assistance that you provided to us shows that the request for grant funds was made by the "City of Chicago, Department of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]." Moreover, the funds sought are federal dollars used for the specific purpose of assisting municipalities in attending sessions on [REDACTED]. Under these circumstances, it is clear that the funds from [REDACTED] are offered as a gift to the City.

Section 2-156-040(f) of the Ethics Ordinance states that nothing prohibits a City official or employee "from accepting a gift on the City's behalf, provided, however, the person accepting the gift shall promptly report receipt of the gift to the Board of Ethics and to the Comptroller, who shall add it to the inventory of City property." Your written notification to our office, dated June 25, 1991, fulfills the requirement of reporting the gift to the Board of Ethics.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention, and your department's willingness to abide by the ethical standards embodied in the Ordinance. If either of you have any further questions regarding this matter or some related issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director