



City of Chicago  
Harold Washington, Mayor

Board of Ethics  
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MEH

May 13, 1987

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

Case No. 86031-1

Dear [REDACTED]

The Board of Ethics has reviewed your letter of March 31, 1987 in which you disclose the nature of all gifts you received since January 1986 in your capacity as a City employee.

As stated in our previous letter, Section 6 of Executive Order 86-1 prohibits you from accepting anything of value in return for services that must be rendered in accordance with your official responsibilities. However, the plaque which you received in September 1986 as an award in recognition of your public service is permissible under Section 5(c)(i).

The get well cards received from January thru March of 1986, and the flowers received in February 1987 were also appropriately accepted by you in accordance with Section 5(c)(vi). This section states that any relatively inexpensive item of personal property, such as candy or flowers, which is clearly being given as a simple act of kindness, thoughtfulness and appreciation will be deemed appropriate.

On the other hand, the [REDACTED] figurines which the [REDACTED] Council gave you in November 1986 and the crystal vase received from your staff as a going away present in November 1986 are not explicitly allowed under either exception. These are not inexpensive gifts as contemplated under Section 5(c)(vi). Nonetheless, it is the opinion of the Board that our investigation should be terminated because there is no indication that these gifts were given in return for advice or



[REDACTED]  
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assistance on matters concerning the operation or business of the city.

Please note, however, that our decision to terminate this investigation is not a condonation of your acceptance of these gifts. It is the opinion of the Board that your receipt of these gifts presents an appearance of impropriety which in the future should be avoided at all costs. Also note, that under the Governmental Ethics Ordinance, (effective July 1, 1987) City employees will be prohibited from accepting gifts, other than an occasional one of nominal value (less than \$50), from individuals who have an interest in a city business or service. (See Section 26.2-4(c) attached).

Sincerely,  
*Robert C. Howard*  
Robert C. Howard  
Chairman

Enclosures

JS/jh-[REDACTED]