



City of Chicago
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Board of Ethics
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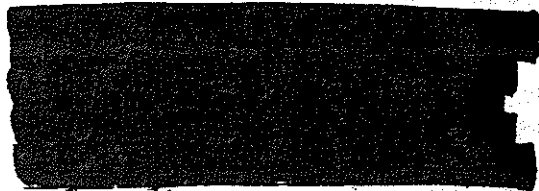
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June 1, 1988



Case Number 88081.A

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear

This letter is to confirm the information given to you orally in response to your request for an advisory opinion concerning golf tournament tickets.

It is our understanding that you received two tickets from the Tournament Committee to attend a golf tournament at *a country club* in 1988. These tickets would normally be obtained by a donation of \$125. You requested an advisory opinion to determine whether the Ethics Ordinance would prohibit you from accepting these tickets.

It is the Board's opinion that you should either return these tickets or make a donation comparable to that normally given in exchange for these benefits. Our rationale for this decision is set forth below.

The Chicago Ethics Ordinance contains three main restrictions with respect to the acceptance of gifts by City employees and officials. These may be summarized in the following way:

- (1) City employees and officials may not accept gifts or benefits from anonymous donors (26.2-4(a));
- (2) City employees and officials may not accept gifts or benefits on the basis of an understanding that such gifts or benefits will influence



their governmental decisions (26.2-4(b)) [For purposes of this section, it is presumed that a non-monetary gift worth less than \$50 does not involve any improper intentions and is therefore allowable.];

- (3) City employees and officials may not accept any cash gift, or any item or service worth \$50 or more from any person who has an economic interest in a transaction with the City if the official may substantially affect this transaction (26.2-4(c)) [This section does not apply to gifts from relatives].

Under these provisions, any gift of cash or any item or benefit worth \$50 or more though not necessarily prohibited, is at least subject to review. The Board of Ethics has adopted a policy of recommending that City employees and officials refrain from accepting any gift or benefit worth more than \$50. By following this recommended policy City officials and employees will clearly avoid any real or potential violations of the Ethics Ordinance gifts provisions and in addition will prevent actions which might be interpreted as unethical conduct.

Under this policy it would be inadvisable for you to accept benefits which are normally obtained by a donation greater than \$50. We would therefore recommend that you return the golf tournament tickets to the donor.

We appreciate your inquiry and your willingness to comply with the ethical standards embodied in the Ethics Ordinance. If you have further questions regarding this matter or some related issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


S. Brandzel
Chairman