

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

MAY 2020

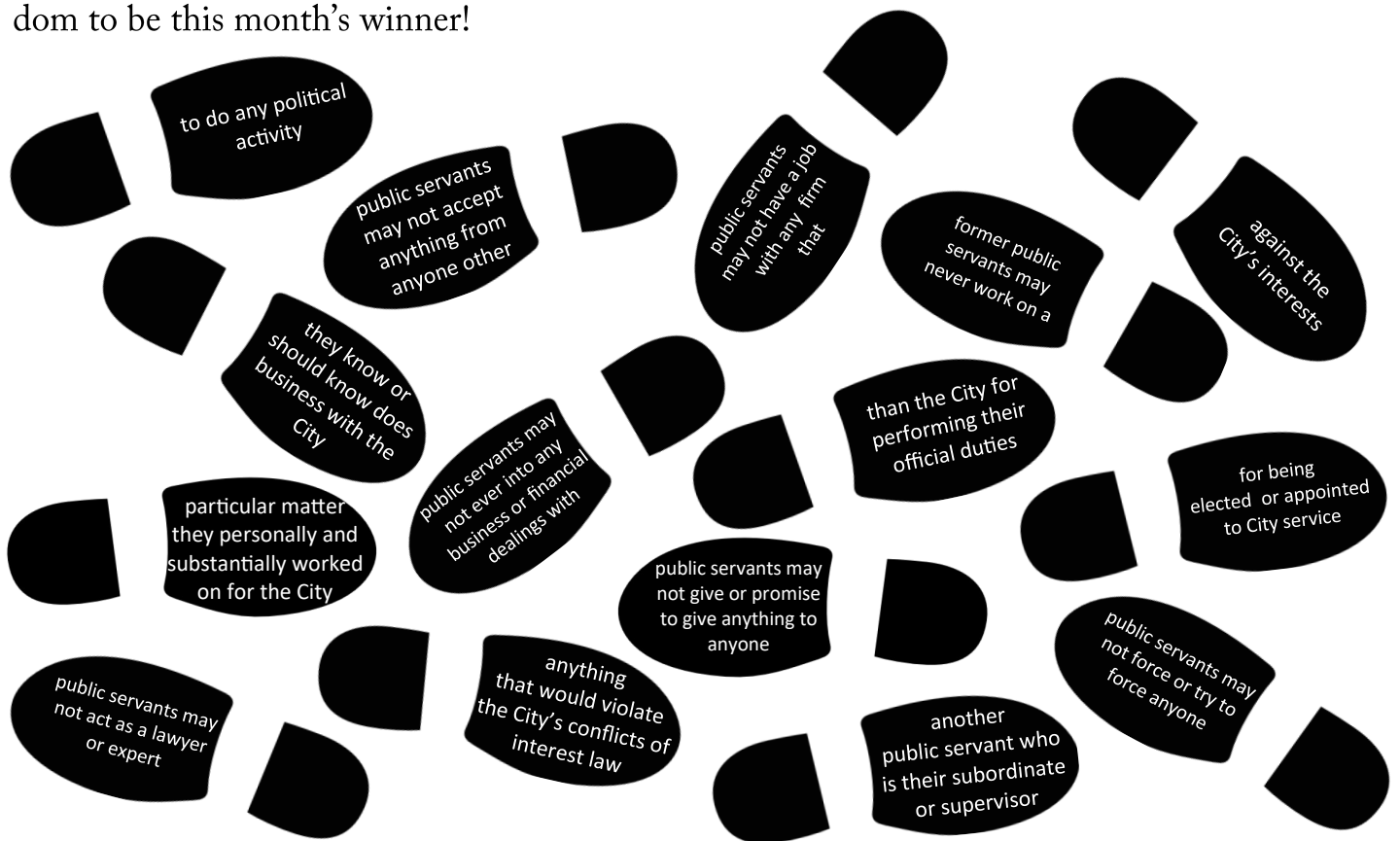
Editor: Isaiah Tanenbaum

## THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT

Like the rest of COIB, Marvin the Meerkat, our unofficial mascot, is working remotely these days. But his burrow is such a mess! He's allowed his shoes to get all mixed up.

Fortunately, also like the rest of COIB, Marvin keeps his footwear organized by printing [passages from our 2-page Plain Language Guide](#) on every pair of shoes. One shoe will start a sentence or phrase, and the other will finish it.

Help Marvin get organized by pairing up his shoe collection. There will be one shoe left over; tell us what should be printed on Marvin's missing, matching shoe by emailing us at [contest@coib.nyc.gov](mailto:contest@coib.nyc.gov) by 5:00 on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. We'll select one correct entrant at random to be this month's winner!



# LAST MONTH'S PUZZLER SOLUTION: GRIDLOCK

N	U	B	C	O	X	U	O
L	P	N	C	W	T	I	P
G	T	I	N	U	S	O	R
T	F	I	A	L	E	N	U
I	D	E	B	V	T	N	T
P	N	I	A	O	R	A	A
L	U	Z	I	T	M	R	T
T	I	P	Q	P	Y	J	Y

Start by crossing out every sixth letter in the grid to the left, moving left to right in the top row, continuing on to the second row, and so on.

Next, find the three TIPs, and cross all three of their letters out (no gratuities allowed!).

Eliminate the fifth column and the third row, before crossing out the diagonal running from the upper left to the lower right.

Cross out the second available (not eliminated) letter in the first row, and then cross out every fourth available letter after that one.

Finally, cross out every instance of the letter U.

The word that is left over is **CONFIDENTIALITY**. Public servants are prohibited by Chapter 68 from disclosing *any* confidential information or using it to advance a private interest, even after leaving City service.

Congratulations to everyone who wrote in with the correct answer; as always, we can only feature one of you, but you're all winners in our hearts.

---

## MEET THE WINNER, FLORENCE MALLETTE

**What is your City/office title?** My title is HR Coordinator, Principal Administrative Associate, Office of Employee Service, Department of Finance.



**What do you do in your job?** My job is vetting resumes and other HR-related services.

**How long have you been working for the City?** I have been there 16 years.

**Name a special interest or hobby.** I like painting and drawing.

**What are your favorite things about City service?** City service helps people with whatever they need.