

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

FEBRUARY 2021

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## Too Cold, Do Crossword



February has been cold. Too cold! If there was a time before this constant snow, we don't remember it. But maybe the cold has simply frozen the part of our brains associated with memory. Hard to tell.

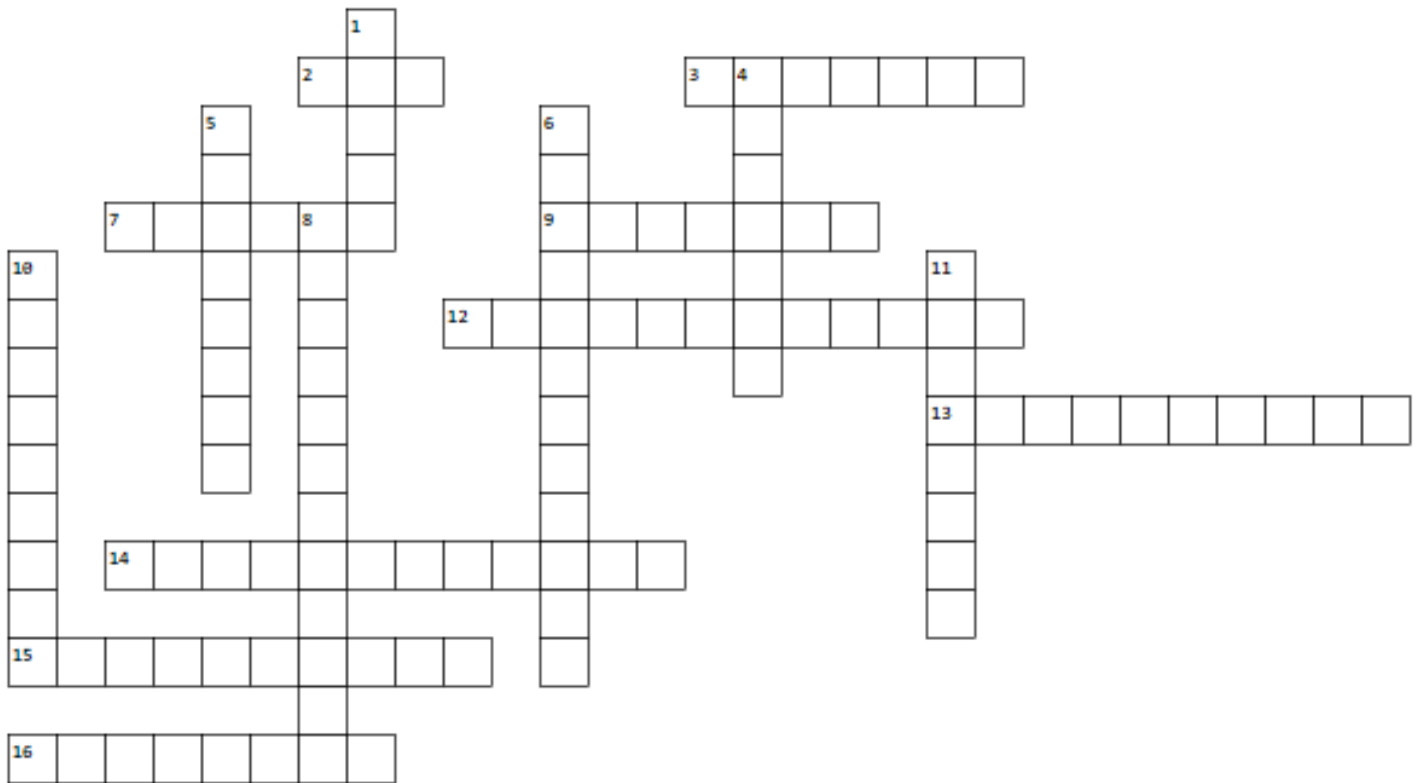
The good news is that as comes February, so too does a brand

new Public Service Puzzler! So kick those feet up on the desk, make yourself a cup of your favorite warm drink, because this month we're going back to basics with a cozy crossword review of some of the most important concepts and prohibitions in the City's conflicts of interest law. As always, we'll choose one winner at random from those who successfully complete the puzzle to be featured in our Employee Spotlight. Will this month's winner be you? [Only one way to find out!](#)

(If it's been a while since you've thought about the conflicts of interest law and need a bit of a warm-up: every answer appears somewhere on the Board's two-page Plain Language Guide, which you can find on the COIB website right [here!](#))

# NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

## A WINTRY MIX



### DOWN

1. Public servants may not accept anything valued **THIS MUCH** or more from any person or firm that they know or should know is doing business or seeking to do business with the City.
4. Public servants may not act as lawyers or paid \_\_\_\_\_ against the City's interests in any lawsuit brought by or against the City.
5. This type of prohibited political activity occurs when a public servant tries to force, threaten, or promise something in return for a political contribution.
6. If you're doing this at a firm that does business with the City, you'll need a waiver from the Board.
8. A type of information that you cannot share! Private information!

# NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

## DOWN (cont'd)

10. Using the office copier to print campaign fliers for your favorite political candidate would be a misuse of City \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When a public servant uses their City authority to personally or financially benefit themselves, their family members, or any person or firm with whom they have a business or financial relationship, a misuse of \_\_\_\_\_ has occurred.

## ACROSS

2. Sorta like a gift, only you are given it for performing your official duties. And the limit on this is \$0.
3. When you recognize that you have a potential conflict of interest and ask your supervisor to reassign the project to someone else.
7. Public servants may not, for compensation, communicate with any City \_\_\_\_\_ or appear in any matter involving the City.
9. The "revolving door" law prohibits former public servants from making compensated communications with their former City agency for this period of time after leaving City service.
12. When a supervisor asks a City subordinate to make a political contribution or to do any political activity, it is an example of political \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Legal term for when a public servant causes, or tries to cause, or helps another public servant violate Chapter 68.
14. This unpaid work is generally okay without a waiver! Good for you!
15. Someone who cannot enter into any financial relationship with their subordinates.
16. How frequently certain New York City public servants, elected officials, and candidates for elected office must fill out financial disclosure forms.

# NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

## MEET KATIE MILLER



Hello, Katie! Congrats on winning last month's Puzzler. We loved the idea of a public servant Batman realizing their campaign of private vigilantism does not comport with the spirit of Chapter 68. We'd also point out that the Batcave is almost certainly not being properly reported on his Annual Disclosure report, and his political entanglements (all those fundraisers for prospective candidate Harvey Dent!) are probably going to come back to bat-bite him. Also, it is entirely possible we read too many comic books. In any case, you're our winner this month! So, what do you do for the City?

NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, Multimedia Coordinator

**What does a TLC Multimedia Coordinator do?**

Create graphic design communications for both our drivers and the riding public.

**How long have you been working for the City?**

Almost 2 years!

**Living in New York means everyone's got a favorite celeb-sighting story. What's yours?**

My friend and I were running really late to see a play so he went to get our seats and I ran to the bar. Everyone was already in their seats so no one was at the bar and as I'm about to order Jake Gyllenhaal walks out of the back to go take his seat. I did a double take and he gave me very polite nod as in "yes, it's me." Needless to say my friend was very mad he didn't come to the bar with me.

**He must say that *all the time*. So, what's a fun fact about you someone wouldn't know just by looking?**

I'm a horror movie fanatic, so if you ever need recommendations feel free to ask me!

**Thanks, Katie! We'll keep that in mind — and thank you for keeping Chapter 68 in mind!**



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