

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

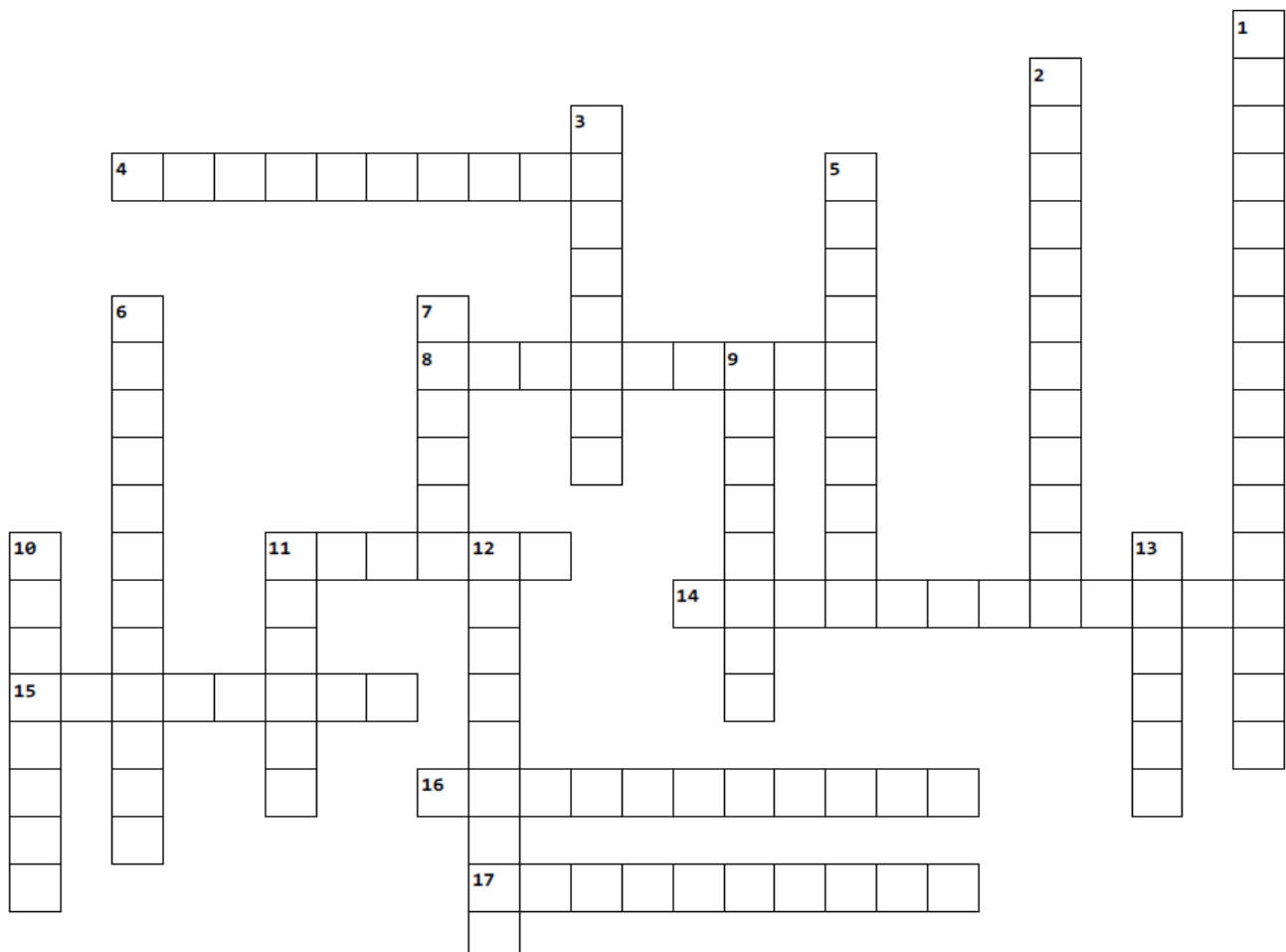
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Editor: Rob Casimir

## CONFLICTED CROSSWORD

What's better than kicking up your feet and relaxing with a challenging but ultimately solvable crossword puzzle? That's right – using a reasonable amount of City time and resources on a challenging but ultimately solvable *municipal ethics-themed* crossword!

Nine out of ten COIB staffers agree that crossword puzzles are an excellent way to refresh your ethics knowledge (and the tenth is one of those guys who posts their Wordle scores online every day)! Anyway, can you solve this month's crossword? **Submit completed puzzles to [contest@coib.nyc.gov](mailto:contest@coib.nyc.gov) by Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. One correct entrant will be selected at random to be featured in next month's *Public Service Puzzler*! (If you're stuck, you'll find most of these answers in [Chapter 68](#), [the Board Rules](#), and our [FAQs](#).)**



# NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

## Across

- 4. Person having the authority to control or direct the work of a public servant; unable to have financial relationships with subordinates
- 8. Our Tiktok @
- 11. To make any communication, for compensation, other than those involving ministerial matters
- 14. Minimum value of a "valuable gift"
- 15. Something you shouldn't misuse OR a tool used to clock in
- 16. A "dry" era; or, something banned by law
- 17. "\_\_\_\_\_ Use Policy" at many agencies allows for minimal, personal use of City resources

## Down

- 1. Every year this Unit collects reports that provide transparency
- 2. Kitchen \_\_\_\_, penned by Bourdain; or, what all advice via the Attorney-of-the-Day line is
- 3. \_\_\_\_ Day (2001) starring Washington and Hawke; or, what the Education & Engagement Unit does for all City agencies
- 5. Causing another public servant to engage in conduct that violates a provision of the City Charter, or agreeing with one or more persons to engage in prohibited conduct
- 6. 80s dramedy featuring Willis and Shepherd; or, having a second job
- 7. Second half of the two steps you should immediately take when discovering you have a conflict of interest
- 9. Hiring, promoting, or supervising family
- 10. One half of the two steps you should immediately take when discovering you have a conflict of interest
- 11. "Let me give you a word of \_\_\_\_"
- 12. New York, formerly New \_\_\_\_
- 13. Special permission allowing something otherwise prohibited

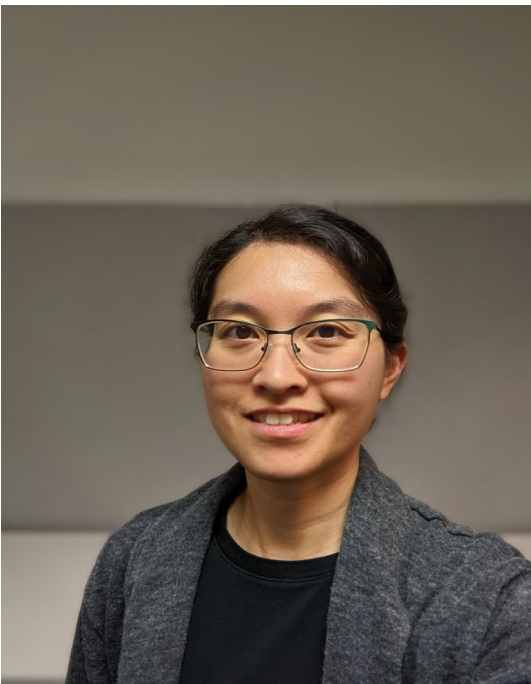
# NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

## LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

Last month we asked [some pretty tough questions](#) about the intersection between Chapter 68 and social media, but Lok Leong from DDC was able to get them all! For those who fell just a little bit short of perfect, allow me to end your monthlong suspense by providing answers!

1. The Staff Analyst is expressing her personal opinions on a personal account; it's fine! (Though maybe not advisable.)
2. The Job Opportunity Specialist had a work assignment involving posting agency content online; that part was fine, but adding a link to his personal fundraising site is misuse of the agency's TikTok account.
3. Not okay! The Assistant Commissioner cannot use his agency's Facebook page to promote his political campaign.
4. If the job notice was not public yet, this would be a violation. But there's nothing wrong with someone taking a publicly-available job notice and sharing it with their network.
5. A violation of the one-year compensated appearance ban! The former Administrative Analyst could DM the contract negotiator on Instagram socially, but not on behalf of his new employer.

## MEET LOK LEONG



- 1) **What is your City/office title?**  
Senior Training Coordinator for Training and Staff Development at NYC DDC.
- 2) **What do you do in your job?**  
I mainly coordinate construction safety training for internal employees. Anything routine that our project managers and engineers may need to access — I then break that fun up with organizing and moderating monthly in-house workshops and continuing education programs.
- 3) **How long have you been working for the City?**  
A little under 10 years.
- 4) **What's the most memorable celebrity encounter you've had?**  
Years ago I saw NBC 4's Andrew Siff get on my Manhattan-bound local train. I exclaimed, "oh-- it's Andrew Siff!" to my spouse and Andrew promptly made a 360 right off that train. I guess he was a little shy.
- 5) **Your favorite part of City service?**  
My favorite part of City service is that while it isn't glamorous, it is rewarding. It gives you a tangible sense on the part you play in people's lives. For example, each time I go into a public library, I know that our hardworking architects and engineers had a hand in creating a work of art that many generations of people will be able to enjoy.