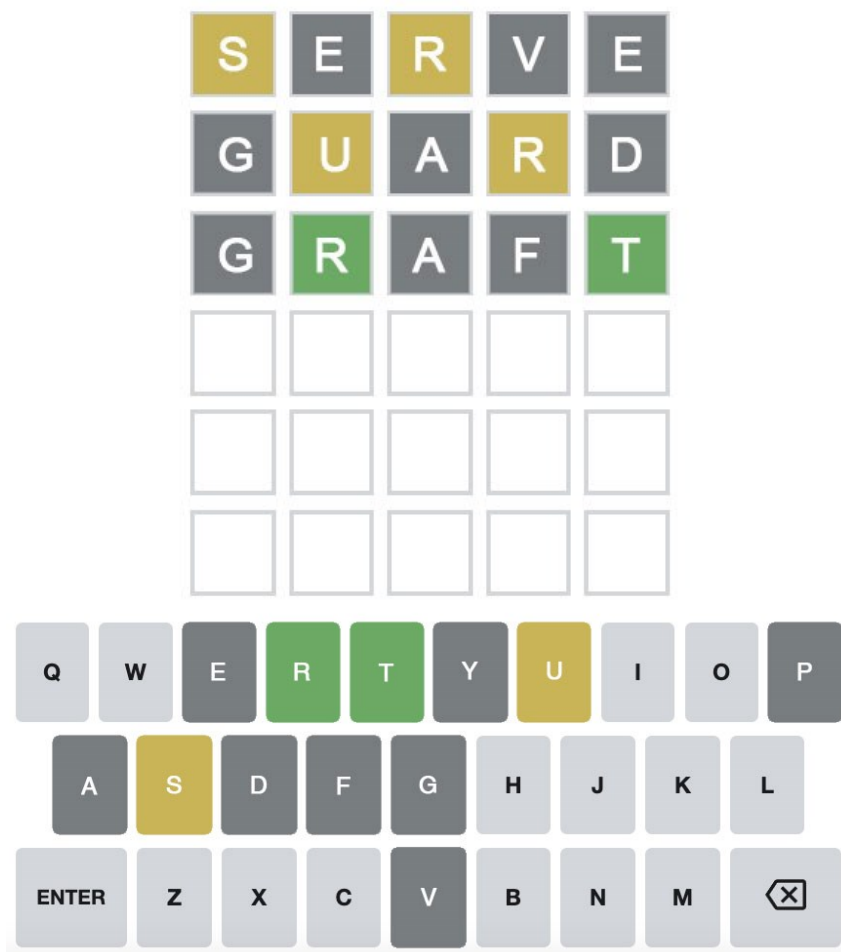


THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

JANUARY 2022

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CONFLICTS WORDLE



Maybe you've seen it on your social media feed. Maybe you're addicted yourself! It's [Wordle](#), the latest viral craze, and COIB is jumping on the bandwagon.

Here's how it works: We're thinking of a five-letter word, and you're trying to guess it. With every successive guess, letters are given one of three colors. A **DARK GREY** letter isn't in the word. A **GREEN** letter is in the right spot. And a **GOLD** letter is in the word, but in a different spot (like the R in the first two guesses; the third guess shows it's the second letter).

We've filled in three ethics-related guesses and provided the keyboard to help organize the clues. Can you figure out the word, which is also related to our law, with one last guess? Send your answer to contest@coib.nyc.gov by Wednesday, Feb 16th. One correct entrant will be randomly selected to be featured in next month's *Public Service Puzzler*!

RIDDLE DEE DEE SOLUTION

One chilly autumn day, a City school upgraded its playground fencing from wooden picket posts to metal chain link. Most of the old fencing was happy to retire and looked forward to spending its golden years surrounding gardens upstate.



One slat, though, wasn't quite ready to be done working in school safety. It went out, got on a fresh coat of paint, and secured a job with a consulting firm. By spring, the former City fence slat was earning huge fees advising officials at the Department of Education on the design and maintenance of their many playgrounds.

The slat soon received a hefty fine from COIB.

Why? For violating the one-year appearance ban outlined in §2604(d)(2). In other words, a *post-employment violation*. Get it???

Look, they can't all be winners. But one of you can be, and is! Let's meet her!

MEET ELISABETH TOPALTZAS



What was your City/office title? I was a Department of Records and Information Services Municipal Library Intern.

What did you do in your job? I helped fix various problems in the Library Catalog and government publications portal.

How long did you work for the City? I worked for the city starting in 2020, through 2022.

Name a special interest or hobby (and why you enjoy it). I love to draw, paint, and make all kinds of art. I think it is so cool and rewarding to make something that didn't exist in the world before.

What's the most memorable celebrity encounter you've had? It was not particularly memorable for me, but for my Dad. When I was around 5 years old, I was on line waiting to ride a coaster at a theme park when I met Tommy Lee of the band Motley Crue. My Dad said he had a conversation with the musician while I just stared at him terrified.