

NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

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GRIDLOCK

Follow the instructions to reveal a hidden word!

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.

You should now have a word that's always important to keep in mind in public service. Email us with the word **and a sentence or two about its ethical significance** at contest@coib.nyc.gov by 5:00 on Friday, April 10th. We'll select one correct entrant at random to be this month's winner!

ETHICAL EQUATIONS SOLUTION

Take the number of [the New York City Charter chapter](#) in which the Conflicts of Interest Law is found (68), multiply that by the number of days in a week ($68 \times 7 = 476$) then add the number of hours in a day ($476 + 24 = 500$), because public servants should follow the law every hour of every day.

Divide by 5 ($500 \div 5 = 100$), then add that number to the year on the New York City seal (which isn't even [all that accurate!](#)) ($100 + 1625 = 1725$).

Subtract that number from the last year that a New York baseball team won the World Series ($2009 - 1725 = 284$), then add the number of boroughs of New York City ($284 + 5 = 289$).

Since you can always call [311](#) for help with any City issue, multiply 3 and 11 (33) and add that to the square root of the number above ($\sqrt{289} = 17$; $17 + 33 = 50$).

\$50 represents a “valuable gift.” No public servant may accept a valuable gift from a person or firm that does business (or is seeking to do business) with the City. As several entrants (correctly) pointed out, this \$50 amount is aggregate and cumulative over any 12-month period, from any single person or firm. Learn more about valuable gifts [HERE](#).

MEET THE WINNER, SHAWNORA GULLEY



What is your City/office title? Administrative Staff Analyst, Department of Buildings Risk Management & Analysis Unit.

What do you do in your job? Some job functions include assisting in the monitoring of internal and external audits; analyzing historical data and other materials to identify risk factors; identifying trends and areas of concern with respect to integrity and compliance; and implementing best practices for addressing integrity matters at DOB.

How long have you been working for the City? I have been with the DOB since February of 2017, and I have over 10 years of city service.

Name a special interest or hobby. I have purchased art work to the point where my walls look like a museum. But in July of 2019 I attended my first live auction (bidding paddle and all) and won two pieces of art work. That was an exciting day.

What are your favorite things about City service? My favorite thing about City service is the people I work with at DOB. Being around colleagues who are passionate about their work and the service they provide to the public motivates me every day to do my best.