

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

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THE OLD FASHIONED WAY

The year is 2024. Disinformation is everywhere. Hold up a blacklight in your kitchen – disinformation is worse. My nephew’s voicemail greeting is an AI-generated, pitch-perfect voice-clone of Orson Welles absolutely *insisting* that “I’m currently unavailable, (rose)-bud leave a message and I’ll get back to you at my soonest convenience.”

I don’t like that. And while, sure, I did sort of expect to find “epistemological crisis” on our society’s 2024 Bingo card – I did not expect that power to be so casually wielded by my family’s biggest advocate for Mountain Dew soda. How does one navigate this information environment, especially as the pace of technological change continues to generate and sustain questions of provenance and trust?

The answer is simple: by returning to basic, bedrock principles and basic, bedrock *sediments* with painted figures on them, representing easily understood human concepts. That’s right, Puzzlers – it’s time to RETVRN to both tradition and the newsletter’s most popular previous municipal ethics-themed game: the Rebus Challenge!

I have been told that this stone tablet has the ability to clear up any and all questions

public servants might have about Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter. While I am, as a rule, against magic, the stakes are simply too high not to investigate. Peruse the stone and send your decoded answer on [over to COIB](#) for a chance to join last month’s winner and Riddlemaster/Senior Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Design and Construction Kathy Tuznik in the ethical spotlight! Winners are selected at random from all correct submissions – so give it a shot!



(hint: a magic number)