

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

JUNE 2024

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SUBWAY MAGIC

It's summertime in the City and for *Real New Yorkers* that can mean only one thing: scores of cowed sages descending from their upstate peaks to roam our subway system, mercilessly peppering law-abiding straphangers with a collection of government ethics-themed riddles.



Wait a second, Mr. Casimir, you might be thinking, I've lived here for all my life and I've never seen anything like what you're describing! And in that case I can say only congratulations, Dear Reader, on having the courage to out yourself as Not A Real New Yorker! Because the fact of the matter is the wizards are here, and whether it's a [mythical sphinx](#) or an arcane spellcaster asking the questions, New York City public servants, as examples to others, need to be informed and prepared.

Sure: [Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter](#), the City's conflicts of interest law, has all the information you need — but without regular training our skills become less sharp. That's why practice is so essential, and why this month's Puzzler features three skills-sharpening riddles with solutions that are all words associated with Chapter 68. Believe you've got all the answers? Then [email us before July 19th](#) for your chance at municipal fame! Our randomly-selected winners will get a shout out in the next issue and, more importantly, a permanent place of honor beside past winners like [Shivajeet Chakraborty \(TLC\)](#) and [Peter Kontogiannis \(DEP\)](#) in the government ethics Valhalla that is: **THE PUZZLER HALL OF CHAMPIONS.**

Got it? Here goes:

For those who serve with extra flair,
Going way above their duty,
A New Yorker may wish to show they care,
With a sadly prohibited _____.

When rules are strict but might need a bend,
On this process a City employee can depend:
A formal nod to an otherwise prohibited behavior,
The restricted becomes permitted with a _____.

When personal stakes might cloud one's sight,
Chapter 68 demands a slight removal:
A step back, taken to make things right,
This action is called _____.



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THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER HALL OF CHAMPIONS

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