

NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

AUGUST 2020

Editor: Isaiah Tanenbaum

CAPTION CONTEST

Submit your funniest Chapter 68-related caption for the cartoon to the right to contest@coib.nyc.gov by 5:00 on Friday, September 18th.

We'll feature our favorite caption (and its writer) in next month's edition of the *Public Service Puzzler*!



MEET LAST MONTH'S WINNER, JAMES TOBACK

What is your City title? I am a Clerical Associate Level III with the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

How long have you been working for the City? My first day with OCME was on March 23rd 2020, ironically the first day of the stay-at-home order.

What do you do in your job? I was assigned to Records, but in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, my position has shifted around a bit. At the start of the stay-at-home order, I volunteered to sit at the front desk with Security due to shortages. As of August, I am helping Security as a Clerical Associate. I assist in the distribution of COVID-19 parking plaques, help investigate if parking tickets were handed out improperly, and assist in writing Security's CompStat reports.

What's the most memorable celebrity encounter you've had? Prior to my work with the City, I worked as an usher and Front of House Manager up and down the Eastern seaboard, so celebrity encounters were really part of the game! My top three, however, are Alan Murakora (Alan from Sesame Street, who is a friend of a friend), Andre Holland (who lifted my spirits after a bad date during his last Broadway run), and Tony-nominated songwriter Joe Iconis (who became a friend and confidant a couple of years ago at a party).



What's your favorite part of City service? My favorite part of City service is the protection of a strong union (DC 37 Local 1549). Many people in my previous industry are unprotected workers who can be removed at any moment and have no work-related health insurance or paid vacation days. Through DC 37, I have set hours, health insurance, and I plan to use some of my vacation time to hike and go apple picking in a couple of weeks.

SOLUTION: JOB HUNT

Thanks to everyone who submitted advice for Suzanne! We've indicated our likely responses in blue.

Suzanne works as a full-time Principal Administrative Assistant at the City's Human Resources Administration (HRA). She's considering supplementing that job with some part-time work, or perhaps leaving HRA for a new full-time position. Here are some of the job postings she's bookmarked:

1. **Brand Ambassador, Papeko Paper Company.** Join the team managing our four biggest clients: McDonald's, IBM, HRA, and Macy's. Part time. **She'd need a moonlighting waiver, but getting one might be more difficult than most moonlighting waivers as this position would have her working on matters involving her own City agency.**
2. **Weekend Secretarial Assistant, 57th Street Youth Club.** Help manage the weekend operations of a not-for-profit that receives substantial funding from DYCD and City Parks. No grant-writing required, hourly pay commensurate with experience. **Also requires a waiver, but as the position is not connected to the City business of the not-for-profit, it's more likely such a waiver would be approved.**
3. **Full-Time Sales Associate, J&B Distance Training.** In search of someone to help us market our suite of online training products. Government experience and contacts required; you'll be leveraging those to help us expand into the public sphere. **Suzanne is free to work wherever she wants after leaving HRA. But she cannot contact HRA on behalf of her new employer for one year.**
4. Supplement your income selling things you've made yourself, all from the comfort of your own home — become an Esty seller! Riches are just a few clicks away. **This is fine, so long as Suzanne doesn't use any City time or City resources, or sell to subordinates or members of the public with whom she deals in her City capacity.**
5. Seeking a co-author for a book about City government. Must bring your own stories about your agency and the crazy things you've seen there. Also looking for insider tips and policies the public doesn't know about! Full-time for six months. **Crazy stories are easy to tell, but even after leaving City service, Suzanne cannot reveal any confidential City information. This might make working on this book tricky.**
6. **Budget Analyst, NYC Comptroller's Office.** Evaluate purchasing decisions made by City agencies. You'll email and call agency representatives and review contracts for budgetary compliance. All City agencies are subject to auditing. Full-time, starts immediately. **Here, Suzanne is moving to another government position, so the post-employment rules do not apply. She will be able to contact all City agencies on behalf of the Comptroller's Office, including HRA.**

As always, the advice we give is tailored to an individual's unique circumstances. So if Suzanne's opportunities sound similar to any you're considering, don't take what we would tell her as the end of the conversation, but rather as its starting point. [Contact COIB's Attorney of the Day](#) for confidential legal advice.