

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

JANUARY 2024

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NOT THIS AGAIN

Welp — not even a month into the new year and it's happened again: RIDDLES THREE, posed once more by the underutilized municipal Sphinx who works in my building. It's not entirely mandatory to answer her questions, of course, but if you don't she's going to keep bringing it up in the elevator, and at the coffee cart outside, and it's just going to be this whole annoying thing. So, please, if you can, direct an Acceptable Use Policy-compliant amount of City time toward these mythologically-municipal brain teasers; each answer will be a word related to Chapter 68 of the City Charter (and if you're stumped, check the bottom of the page for a *literally* tiny hint!) Good luck and please hurry!



#1

Favored not for talent,
but for the family tree,
in the halls of power,
I'm often seen but shouldn't be.
A practice frowned upon, yet sometimes discreetly done,
under the table, it's family over anyone. What am I?

#2

A bending, not breaking,
of a particular rule's line,
I grant a pass where once was a fine.
In the realm of ethics: a special permit,
I'm an exception, not a habit. What am I?

#3

A whisper, a hint, subtly dropped in the mix,
On a DOI hotline, I'm a clue that may fix!
But at COIB you'll need to go without,
When gifted, I'm gratuitous in any amount! What am I?

As always, send your email with the three winning answers on [over to COIB](#) by the 15th and you could join the esteemed ranks of past winners such as Monica Doyle from the Department of Finance, whose name will ring through the Halls of Ethics for a thousand years — will yours?