

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

JULY 2021

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COIB!



It was just COIB's 31st birthday, as the Board first convened in May of 1990. So that means it's also the birthday of COIB's mascot Marvin the Meerkat*, and the presents have been pouring in!

But surely he can't accept all of these. Circle all the gifts Marvin must refuse or return (refresh your understanding of the law with the [Gifts FAQ](#)), and then unscramble the letters on those forbidden items to reveal an important word.

This cash covers the lunch you ordered when you stopped by to discuss our contract, plus a birthday cake on us.
- A COIB Vendor

I'm reserving box seats for you when Broadway re-opens!
- Love, Your Grandpa Timon
[Timon works for The Broadway League, a City vendor]



Love the COIB Twitter feed! Here's a \$40 gift card as my way of saying thanks for all the hard work you do for the City.
- A Member of the Public



Enjoy these swag pens, water bottle, and desk calendar, Marvin! Isn't our logo pretty?
- A COIB Vendor



I know we haven't spoken in decades, but remember me? I work for a City vendor now! We should catch up. Here's a gold watch.
- A Distant Acquaintance



We each chipped in and got you a DVD box set of *Meerkat Manor*. See you at the office, boss!
- Your Subordinates



In recognition of your birthday I have given you this very expensive briefcase.
- Your Supervisor



Thanks for sending us that politician's annual disclosure report, Marvin! Next week's papers will be delivered free to your burrow.
- A Newspaper Reporter

This very rare fountain pen "fell off a truck." Enjoy it, Marvin!
- The Owner of an Office Supply Firm Seeking Business with COIB

Submit that term — and its significance — to contest@coib.nyc.gov by Wednesday, July 14th. One correct entrant will be selected at random to be featured in next month's issue.

*For the purposes of this game, assume that Marvin has a hand/paw in all official actions of COIB.

NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

MATCH GAME SOLUTION

<u>Terms</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
• Appear	• All officials, officers, and employees of the City, including community board members.
• Associated Party	• Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President, or Council Member.
• Elected Official	• A close family member (child, spouse/domestic partner, parent, sibling) or a person or firm with whom you have a business or financial relationship.
• Interest	• To make any communication, for compensation, other than those involving ministerial matters.
• Position	• Elected officials and public servants whose primary employment is with the City, but not members of advisory committees or community board members.
• Public Servant	• Owning a five percent or \$50K [originally \$25K] investment in a firm, or working for a firm.
• Regular Employee	

a role in a firm which does not constitute an ownership interest.

The extra word was “Position,” which we have defined (in paraphrase). For all these definitions and more, check out [the text of Chapter 68](#). Congratulations to everyone who wrote in with a correct answer (including the definition) — the random number generator picked Melissa Hester, but you’re all winners in our book!

MEET MELISSA HESTER

What is your City/office title? Associate Commissioner of Human Resources, Administration for Children’s Services.



What do you do in your job? I oversee all aspects of ACS’ Human Capital for over 7000 employees. The Office of Human Resources has just over 100 employees in areas such as Compliance, Recruitment, Payroll & Timekeeping, Employment Services, Employee Management & Development, and Workforce Operations.

How long have you been working for the City? 12 years and 9 months.

A fun fact about you someone wouldn’t know just by looking: I love karaoke! If there’s a mic there’s karaoke.

What’s your favorite part of City service? My favorite part of City service is meeting and getting to know other City workers. City employees have so much passion for their jobs and really care about the wellbeing of all New Yorkers, and for me that energy is so captivating.



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