

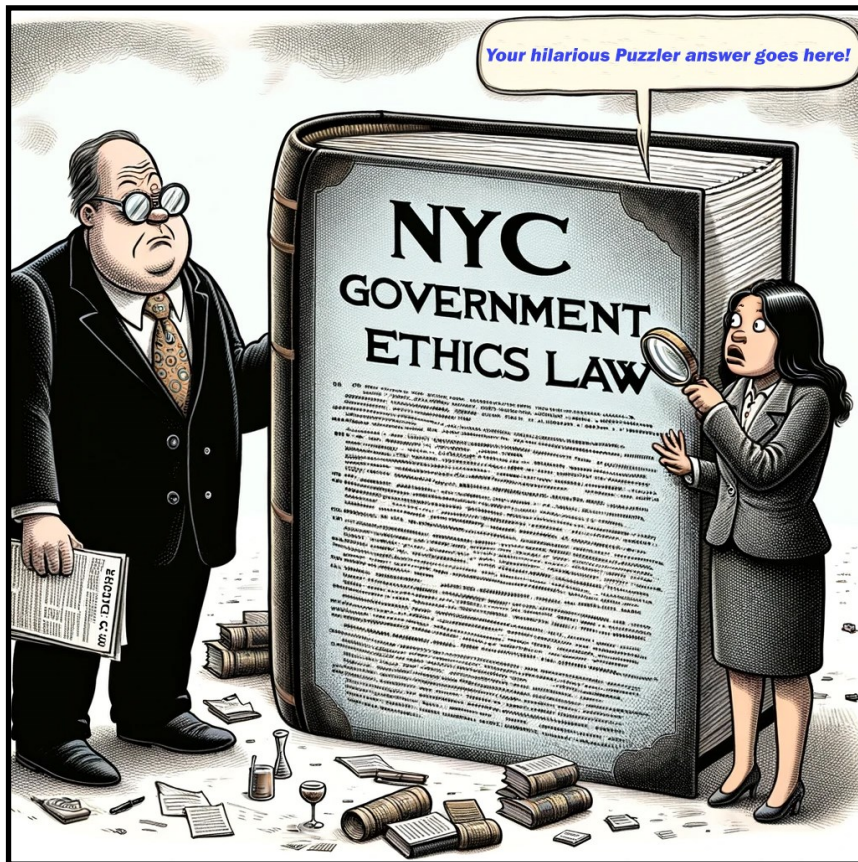
THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

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WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks — sure, yes, we know this to be true — but it’s also a time to manage trans-continental logistics, a collectivized *Kitchen Nightmare*, and an uncle who simply cannot see that the reason the Dallas Cowboys can’t pull off a decent play-action pass is because they neglect to establish a credible running game on first and second downs. I’m trying to “practice gratitude,” but the sun will go dark in our sky before my ROTC Nephew finishes talking about wolf psychology. This is not the time for introspection.



No, *now* is the time for introspection: in the holiday interregnum, post-Thanksgiving but not yet the winter holidays, where we can recollect with fondness all those blessings we’ve accumulated throughout the year, free from the concomitant tension of cousins handling a potentially lethal deep-fried turkey.

Without all the hustle and bustle of holiday, we can take a moment and appreciate what really matters: the families, both born into and chosen, that provide so many of the shared experiences and cherished memories that shape us into the people we are; those friendships — that completely

voluntary sense of shared fondness and responsibility for another — which will be there to the very end; and, most of all I think, the monthly *Public Service Puzzler*, which this time is a Caption Contest! Think of a funny thing for the cartoon to say and [send it over to COIB](#), and if it’s the funniest one we’ll feature you in the next issue: like John Ravalli, a Deputy Director from the Department of Finance, who last month correctly identified that Marlene actually violated NO part of Chapter 68 at ANY time during her day. While we might find some of Marlene’s activities annoying (we sure do), it is not illegal to work for the City and be annoying — *whew!*