

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

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## IT'S AULD LANG TIME

Last year was a lot. But this year? This is the year you figure it out. Those resolutions? You're keeping them. Goals? Reaching them. Mood board status: fully manifested. This is *your* 2024, and it begins with your first big victory: acing the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board's Annual Public Service Puzzler Reverse Word Search Challenge Competition. Past winners have, without exception, gone on to such great things that they are no longer available to comment in support of this assertion, but trust me: this the winning momentum you can, will, and currently *are* carrying into the new year. And it isn't going to stop.

A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T	E	D
T	W	O	O	N	E	T	W	Y	O
R	E	V	I	A	W	F	B	T	O
R	E	C	U	S	E	R	B	I	U
R	F	O	U	R	I	O	T	U	W
O	F	O	U	B	A	R	T	T	E
E	N	H	E	R	U	N	D	A	R
E	D	B	D	B	W	K	C	R	P
N	E	P	O	T	I	S	M	G	T
E	R	U	S	O	L	C	S	I	D

Most likely, you are about to look at that grid-ded square over there, and you're gonna easily find the COIB-esque words hidden within — words like APPROVAL,

ASSOCIATED, BOARD, BRIBE, CAMPAIGNS, DISCLOSURE, GRATUITY, NEPOTISM, RECUSE, and WAIVER— and then realize the remaining, unused letters can be lined up to reveal the secret to solving *any and all* ethical dilemmas a public servant might face.

Bold claim, huh? But it's true! And all you have to do to join the ranks of these Titans of Puzzler Past — like last month's *Garfield S. Scarder* of the School Construction Authority — is email the secret message [over to COIB](#) by January 16th! We'll select a winner from among the correct answers, and it'll probably be you! Because, and I truly can't emphasize this enough: this is *your* year — full of so many ethical possibilities — and it's starting [right now!](#)