

NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

DECEMBER 2021

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RIDDLE DEE DEE



One chilly autumn day, a City school upgraded its playground fencing from wooden picket posts to metal chain link. Most of the old fencing was happy to retire, and looked forward to spending its golden years surrounding gardens upstate.

One slat, though, wasn't quite ready to be done working in school safety. It went out, got on a fresh coat of paint, and secured a job with a consulting firm. By spring, the former City fence piece was earning huge fees advising officials at the Department of Education on the design and maintenance of their many playgrounds.

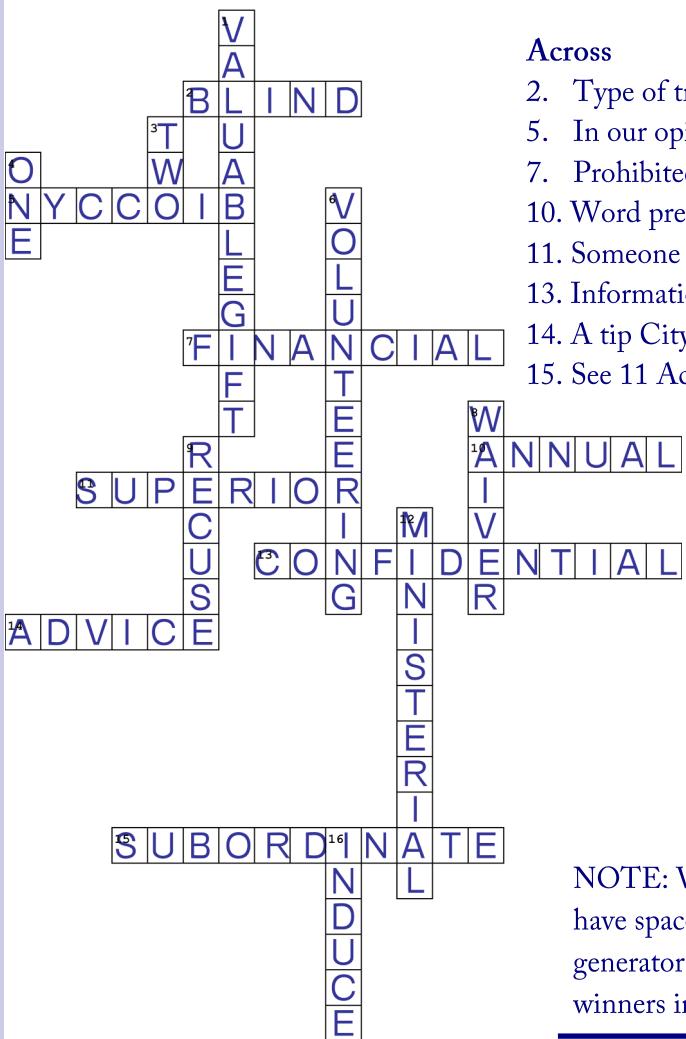
The fence soon received a hefty fine from the COIB.

Why? The answer is a pun, but *also* a specific violation of [City Charter Chapter 68](#). Can you give us both the pun and the citation?

Send your answers to contest@coib.nyc.gov by Wednesday, January 5th. One correct entrant will be selected at random to be featured in next month's *Public Service Puzzler*!

(Need a hint? The riddle's title should lead you to a certain relevant subsection...)

CONFLICTS CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across

- Type of trust that you'll see in Chapter 68, but can't see you anywhere
- In our opinion, the best Twitter account
- Prohibited relationship between 11 Across and 15 Across
- Word preceding Disclosure and Report
- Someone with authority over 15 Across
- Information not publicly available
- A tip City workers should seek out
- See 11 Across

Down

- \$50 or more from a City vendor
- Mandated training interval, in years
- Length, in years, of the post-employment appearance ban
- Unpaid activity
- Document that grants permission to moonlight
- Refrain from taking any official action, often due to a conflict of interest
- Does not involve substantial discretion
- Convince another public servant to violate the law

NOTE: We received several correct answers (well done, all!), but only have space to feature one public servant per issue. A random number generator selected the entry from Christopher Lynch, but you're all winners in our book.

MEET CHRISTOPHER LYNCH



What is your City/office title? I am an Assistant Corporation Counsel (not yet admitted) in the Law Department, Tort Division, Manhattan Borough Unit.

What do you do in your job? I defend the City in personal injury lawsuits brought against it.

How long have you been working for the City? I started working for the City in August 2021.

If you could work any other job, what would it be, and why? If I could work any other job, I would be a social worker because I like to help people. Everyone needs some help in their lives sometimes and social workers selflessly provide that assistance every day.

What's the most memorable celebrity encounter you've had? I once saw Trevor Noah walking on my college campus (but I was too far away to say hi).

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