

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

FEBRUARY 2023

Editor: Rob Casimir

BAD LUCK!

To all my fellow hard-working City employees,

Hello. My name is Rob Casimir, and for the last eleven years it has been my pleasure to serve the Education and Engagement Unit of the Conflicts of Interest Board as Senior Trainer. Throughout this span of time, I have had the privilege of taking on so many responsibilities for the Board: conducting ethics trainings, running social media, even creating newsletters and contests *like the one you're reading right now!* It has been both an honor and a privilege.

But the job comes with other, much less-recognized responsibilities, including managing to an equilibrium of mutual satisfaction the Board's relationship with the community of trickster leprechauns living immediately beneath our headquarters in the Court Square Building. What most people don't know — what DCAS won't tell you — is that when the City took control of this building in 1981, it also took responsibility for a truce between the building's inhabitants and its cryptid neighbors which dates all the way back to the building's initial construction in 1925. For the most part, this has gone smoothly; however, for reasons I still don't quite understand, something has changed.

I'll be honest with you: a leprechaun stole the initial ethics-themed word puzzle I had planned for this month's *Public Service Puzzler*. And they won't give it back until I answer their riddles. I have tried my hardest, but I am just not good at riddles, so I'm issuing this call for help to any City employees who can see this: if you [email me](#) the correct answers to the leprechaun's riddles, I will probably make you the winner of this month's puzzle. Help me, fellow public servants — you're my only hope!

1. What is bigger than the universe, worse than violating Chapter 68, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you were to eat it, you'd die?

2. What travels on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, on three legs in the evening, and cannot disclose for any reason confidential City information?

3. This thing devours all things — birds, beasts, trees, flowers — it gnaws iron, bites steel, and grinds hard stones to meal. It slays kings, ruins towns, and misuse of it in government makes ethicists frown. What is it?

4. On my way to explain the \$50 Valuable Gift Rule at a training in St Ives, I met a man with seven wives. Each wife had seven sacks, and each sack had seven cats, and each cat had seven kittens. Kittens, cats, sacks, and wives; how many were there going to St Ives?

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"I love three things most: gold,
riddles, and shenanigans – and
I've already got enough gold."
- this leprechaun, probably



LAST MONTH'S BIG WINNER: SIMONE KING!



Congratulations to this month's winner: Simone King! No matter how much we tried to scramble and mix them up, Simone was still able to recognize the Chapter 68 terminology in last month's puzzle. So, how'd she do it? What secrets can we learn from this eagle-eyed public servant? Let's find out!

What is your City/office title?

Administrative Staff Analyst / Executive Assistant to Deputy Commissioner of the Staten Island Ferry.

I imagine that's a busy job!

To keep it simple, I manage calendars for my D/C, handle travel for my DOT Division (Ferries), and process film and literature distribution permits.

Wow, how long have you been doing that?

Fifteen years.

Sounds like DOT is lucky to have someone of your experience! What's your favorite City agency that isn't DOT?

DOE because their programs (arts and sports) enrich and help shape the minds and lives of children. I learned to crochet from a senior citizen volunteer in a NYC middle school.

OK, last question: what's a fun fact most people don't know about you?

I like to play the cello and enjoy playing on my agency softball team (Go Road Warriors!).

While the Board must remain objective and unbiased regarding your softball team (as an ethics agency, we always root for good competition and fair enforcement of rules, never individual teams), and as such cannot confirm or deny our desire, if it even exists, for your Warriors to "go" — we can observe that this is the second month in a row that the *Public Service Puzzler* winner has been a musician! Just a few more months at this rate and we'll be able to form a *Puzzler-Winner Band*! (That uses no City time or resources to practice.) Congratulations, Simone! And thanks again for reading the *Public Service Puzzler*!



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