

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

NOVEMBER 2020

Editor: Isaiah Tanenbaum

THE GIFT OF POETRY



This month, send us a poem about gifts!

We're keeping this one wide open, so go wild: rhyming or free verse, sonnet or haiku, the \$50 rule or gifts from City subordinates, wherever the muse takes you!

If you're looking for inspiration, consider the points outlined in the [Gifts FAQ](#).

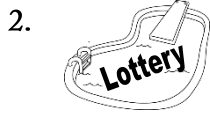
Submit your poem to contest@coib.nyc.gov by Friday, December 11th. Entries will be judged on creativity, humor, and especially Chapter 68 accuracy — we'll feature our favorite(s) in next month's edition of *The Public Service Puzzler*.

NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

WORD PLAY ANSWERS

1. FORMconfidentialATION

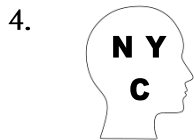
Confidential Information



Lottery Pool

3. (employment appearance ban) year

One Year Post-Employment Appearance Ban



City Letterhead

5. ordinates
gifts from City

Gifts from City Subordinates

MEET TOBY SINGER



What is your City title?

I am an Administrative Engineer for the Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction, or BEDC (yes, it is pronounced “Betsy”).

How long have you been working for the City?

Seven years.

What do you do in your job?

I work in BEDC’s In-House Design team’s Specification Section. I perform QA/QC reviews of capital construction contracts at key stages of their lifecycle. I also develop and continually update the Bureau’s standard specification templates, which are the building blocks of all our construction contracts.

Name a special interest or hobby:

This past summer my kids introduced me to treetop ropes courses, and I was instantly hooked. What better way to enjoy the beauty of New York State’s foliage than by flying through it!

How has your agency and/or job changed in the wake of COVID-19?

From the very beginning of the pandemic, DEP emphasized safety above all else and made a concerted effort to ensure all employees are treated with care and respect. I seamlessly transitioned to telework, learning to integrate the Microsoft Teams platform into my daily routine for collaborating with coworkers. We now rely on Teams and other web-based software for virtual meetings, sharing documents, real-time chats, and even coffee breaks! My rush-hour commute has happily morphed from highway traffic jam battles to foot traffic through the house.