

Posting Through It!



By Roy Koshy

Greetings current and former Public Servants! Summertime is in full swing, but the Conflicts of Interest Law is never out of season. As your proud President-Chancellor-Commissioner-Dean of New York City, I'm honored not only to celebrate our current public servants who carry on that fightin' ethical spirit for which they're known the world over, but of course our esteemed alumni who have served the City with grit and integrity and are now sharing their talents in the non-governmental sector. Below are some post-employment updates on our alumni. Enjoy!

Miles Adderley '23: Miles left his job as Head Lunch Planner at the NYC Department of Quiet Quitting (DQQ) this past November for a position with Neutralino Energy Drink Corp., a private company that specializes in beverages that neither boost nor deplete energy levels. Unfortunately, Miles violated the one-year post-employment communication ban when he submitted a bid on behalf of his new employer to DQQ in January 2024 to supply the agency with not-really-energy

beverages. Not only was he fined by the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB), but Miles very loudly quit at Neutralino as well. Here's hoping for greener employment pastures, Miles (so you can take care of that fine)!

Dawn Davenport '24: Until recently, Dawn served as the Director of Fun Facts at the NYC Department of Trivia Nights (DTN), where she spearheaded a program that distributed municipal-government-focused trivia cards to pubs across the City. She supervised DTN's contract with Carddio, the company that manufactures DTN's trivia materials. While she was still at DTN, Dawn attempted to set up a job interview with Carddio for their Director of Depressing Facts position while directly in charge of their business with DTN. This violation resulted in termination of her employment at DTN as well as a fine from COIB. On a more positive note, Dawn got that "depressing" job with Carddio. Keep your head up, Dawn!

Harris Glenn Milstead '21: In 2020, Harris transferred from his position as an Inspector

at the NYC Department of Office Gossip (DOG) to become Lead Producer at the NYC Office of Podcasting (OOP), whose core mission is to ensure that every New Yorker has a podcast. Harris communicated with DOG on behalf of OOP within one year after he left, and he worked on matters at OOP that he was involved in at DOG. This was all okay because the Chapter 68 post-employment restrictions do not apply when a public servant leaves the City to work for another government entity. A problem arose when Harris began his own podcast (he's a New Yorker too!) and began to divulge confidential office gossip that he obtained while at DOG, which is a prohibited action both while public servants are employed at their City agency and after they leave, regardless of where they are employed. Harris incurred a fine from COIB for this violation, termination of employment, and was ordered to cancel his "true gossip" podcast. Harris is currently pursuing a career in stand-up comedy in the hopes of creating more podcasts!

Beverly Sutphin '22: Beverly stepped down as the long-time Commissioner of the NYC Sidewalk Obstacles Board (SOB) in December 2022, where she valiantly upheld the mission of combating poor sidewalk etiquette in the City, taking on scofflaws who blow cigarette smoke behind them as they walk and ne'er-do-wells who stop in the middle of a crowded sidewalk to stare at their phone. Beverly took a position with a legal defense firm that specializes in representing clients accused of sidewalk obstruction, and she appeared before SOB in March 2024 in a legal matter involving a client. Beverly thought this appearance was permissible because it was beyond the one-year mark, but the Conflicts of Interest Law imposes a two-year post-employment appearance ban on certain high-ranking officials, including agency heads, elected officials, and deputy mayors. Beverly's journey is one that reminds us all to "look both ways" when considering our interactions with our former City agencies.

Gerald Mothersbaugh '19: As head Wormhole Examiner at the NYC Department of Portals (DOP), Gerald was instrumental in not only developing portals between NYC and other cities around the world, but also in developing portals that enable New Yorkers to

travel back in time to different periods in NYC history. Gerald left DOP in 2019 for a position at TimeWarp, Inc., a private company that specializes in time travel. After 2020, Gerald facilitated numerous communications with DOP on behalf of TimeWarp, well after the one-year compensated communication ban for City employees. However, while at DOP, Gerald managed a number of contracts related to the development and implementation of the "Tweed on Tweed" immersive tour, in which participants can travel to the 1870s and heckle William "Boss" Tweed for being so corrupt while wearing fashionable tweed apparel. At TimeWarp, Gerald worked on some of those same contracts – a violation of the post-employment lifetime particular matter ban. When fined by COIB, Gerald attempted to travel back in time to prevent himself from committing this violation, but both municipal budget cuts and downsizing at his current employer complicated his attempted journeys. Additionally, due to his general misuse of the space-time continuum, we have Gerald to thank for the giant mutated venomous lanternfly spider invasion that will descend upon NYC in 2025!

I hope you enjoyed this exciting rundown of what your fictional former public servants are up to. If you are thinking of leaving City service yourself and want to ensure you don't run afoul of the Conflicts of Interest Law, we are here to help. You can contact the Attorney of the Day Hotline at 212-442-



1400 Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm, or you can contact us online anytime via email at aod@coib.nyc.gov or [submit questions online](#).

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Recent Enforcement Cases

Misuse of City Time. At times when he was required to be working for the City, an Administrative Supervisor of Building Maintenance at the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) left his NYCHA work location and performed approximately 110 hours of work for his outside employer. After a full hearing at the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (“OATH”), the OATH Administrative Law Judge recommended and the Board imposed a \$10,000 fine on the now-former Administrative Supervisor of Building Maintenance.

Misuse of City Resources. A Fire and Life Safety Director for the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (“DCAS”) placed a DCAS door nameplate and desk nameplate in the front window of her personal vehicle on at least two occasions to avoid receiving parking tickets when she parked the car in a no-parking area near her work location. In a joint settlement with the Board and DCAS, the Fire and Life Safety Director accepted a DCAS-imposed five-day suspension valued at \$1,016. The Board accepted the DCAS-imposed penalty as sufficient and imposed no additional penalty.

Visit our [search engine](#) for all COIB Enforcement Dispositions.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER



During the summer, our commute to serve the City of New York on the subway can be riddled with rising underground heat, rats, loud headphone-less music, and...riddles. Infuse that ride (or sitting at your desk) with some excitement by checking out this month’s [Puzzler](#) where you’ll be confronted by a wizened wizard who is using his powers for good government. Solve these Chapter-68 themed riddles, sharpen those public service skills, and [send us your answers](#) for a chance to be featured next month in the Public Service Puzzler Hall of Champions!



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