

# NYC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

MAY 2022

Editor: Isaiah Tanenbaum

### MISUSE LIMERICKS

What more fitting form of poetry could there be for discussing Misuse of Position than that so often misused form, the limerick?

Fill in the correct final word of these three limericks (remember, as with all limericks, the last line will rhyme with the first two lines):



My boss, for her kid's baby shower,  
Tells me to go pick up the flowers  
That's not why I was hired!  
But would a "no" get me fired?  
This assignment's abuse of her \_\_\_\_\_.

As an inspector I've got City muscle  
Which helps when I've business to rustle  
I'll show up at the yard  
Handing out private cards  
Boom! New gigs for my contractor side \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm job hunting but I have no stress  
My position will yield great success  
Vendors I oversee  
Answer calls from their vendee  
Thanks, City, for my insider \_\_\_\_\_!

Send the three words to [contest@coib.nyc.gov](mailto:contest@coib.nyc.gov) by Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll randomly select one correct entrant to feature in next month's *Public Service Puzzler*!

# SONGS (OF ETHICS) SOLUTION

**CALL ME MAYBE** (At Least 1 Year After Leaving City Service) - Carly Rae Jepsen, 2012

**FREE BIRD** (Typically Valued At \$50, So I Can't Accept It) - Lynyrd Skynyrd, 1973

**I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE**

(But Am Prohibited From Publicly Divulging It) - Marvin Gaye, 1968

**SOMETHING** (Is Too Much To Accept As A Gratuity) - The Beatles, 1969

**CRIMINAL** (Or Civil Penalties May Apply To Violations) - Fiona Apple, 1996

**BIG YELLOW TAXI** (Will Probably Require A Waiver To Drive) - Joni Mitchell, 1970

**I WANT YOU BACK** (As A Consultant, Under Substantially Similar Terms As Your Original City Employment) - The Jackson 5, 1969

**PAPA'S GOT A BRAND NEW BAG**

(Given To Him By A Vendor (Prohibited Gift)) - James Brown, 1965

**SWEET CHILD O' MINE** (Is Someone I Shouldn't Supervise) - Guns N' Roses, 1988

Unscrambled Final Answer: **CITY LETTERHEAD**, whose use is indeed [governed by our law](#).

Thanks to everyone who wrote in with the correct solution! Though we can only feature one of you (randomly chosen), as far as we're concerned you are *all* VIP Backstage Pass material.

Extra thanks, and apologies, to those eagle (Eagles?)-eyed music buffs who caught two errors: one incorrect year and the misspelling of Lynyrd Skynyrd as "Leonard." While the first was due to a typo in [one of the articles we used](#) for research, the second is utterly inexcusable, and we hang our heads in shame. As penance, we will recite ten My Heart Will Go On (Love Theme From 'Titanic')s.

*Every night in my dreams...*



## MEET JAMES DAVIE JR.

**What is your City/office title?** City Assessor 3A, Department of Buildings.

**What do you do in your job?** Real estate valuation for taxation purposes.

**How long have you worked for the City?** 10 years.

**Name a special interest or hobby (and why you enjoy it):** I enjoy brewing beer; it's a fun pastime where even mistakes can turn out to be delightful.

**What's your favorite part of City service?** My favorite part of my City service is that my job requires I travel around the City seeing different neighborhoods and meeting new people.