

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

NOVEMBER 2024

Editor: Rob Casimir

IT'S THANKSGIVING

Did you know that a wild turkey's past activities and current mood can be gleaned from the look of its wattle and snood? It's true — when that little dangly bit on their face turns lighter it's a sign of illness, and a sudden blue color can indicate fear. Did you know that turkeys have no teeth, so they swallow a bunch of small rocks in order to break down and digest the food in their stomachs? It's true! And turkeys can fly up to 50 miles per hour for short distances, meaning escape from a particularly motivated turkey would be near to impossible in a combat scenario.

Did you know that about turkeys? No? Well, that's okay. Because even on a day like Thanksgiving, "turkey facts" are not what matters. What matters is "ethics facts" — [Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter, the Conflicts of Interest Law](#), is just as relevant on holidays as on any other day of the year, and what better time to delve into the specifics of municipal ethics than during the holiday that's all about sharing your gratitude *and* niche theories on governance with your closest friends and family? But before we can interrupt our brother's tirade about "high trust societies" or whatever,

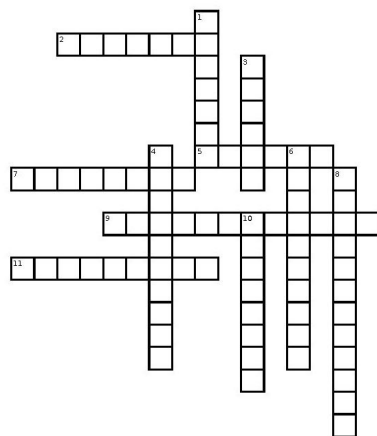


"Seek not my mysteries, but those of the NYC Conflicts of Interest Law." - a turkey

we need to make sure we're warmed up: that's where this month's *Puzzler* comes in.

Solve this pre-holiday dinner government ethics review to make sure your municipal ethics skills are still sharp enough to cut through anything, up to and including Aunt Debbie's overdone pecan pie, then [email your correct answers](#) to the *Puzzler* by November 30th to join last month's winner, **Eugene Massey**, in the Jonathan Hoffman + Peter Kontogiannis Hall of Ethics and Excellence.

And, of course, if you suspect a family member may attempt to discuss Chapter 68 with you at Thanksgiving, there is always the [COIB's Attorney of the Day Hotline](#) available Mondays through Fridays to help talk through any government ethics issues you may have. So good luck everyone — and we'll see you next month at a very non-denominational and winter-themed Public Service Puzzler!



Down:

1. The amount of time most former City employees must wait before a compensated appearance at their former City agency: _____.
3. The Attorney of the Day Hotline (212-442-1400) gives City employees confidential, expert _____.
4. You cannot take an official action that benefits an _____ party.
6. The Conflicts of Interest Law: Chapter _____.
8. A type of information you cannot benefit from or leak: _____.
10. A little something on top of your City salary — not allowed: _____.

Across:

2. The best pie for Thanksgiving (non-debatable): _____.
5. When you encounter an associated party while doing your City job, you should not handle their City business, but instead: disclose your association to your supervisor and _____ yourself.
7. The practice among those with power or influence of favoring relatives, friends, or business associates, especially by giving them jobs: _____.
9. The most popular type of waiver: _____.
11. Supervisors may not have any _____ relationships with their subordinates.

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