

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

NOVEMBER 2019

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EXTRA WORD SEARCH

In the word search below, the word bank lists 16 words, but only 15 are in the chart. Which is the leftover word?

Email your answer to contest@coib.nyc.gov by 12:00 PM on Friday, December 13th. We'll select one correct response at random and feature its writer in our next Puzzler!

WORD BANK

ASSOCIATED
BLIND TRUST
COMPLAINT
CONFLICTS
DISCLOSE
GIFT
GRATUITY
GRIEVANCE
INTEREST
MOONLIGHTING
ONE YEAR BAN
POLITICS
RECUSE
TIP
VIOLATION
VOLUNTEER

T	P	U	Y	P	N	V	L	P	N	F	J	E	D	C
N	R	O	I	K	R	O	Z	L	A	E	G	Z	I	O
I	E	T	L	O	W	Z	I	Z	B	W	V	U	S	N
A	E	C	D	I	J	X	Q	T	R	F	I	Q	C	F
L	C	S	E	E	T	H	G	B	A	E	I	Q	L	L
P	V	O	U	K	T	I	W	V	E	L	P	T	O	I
M	B	M	J	C	D	A	C	G	Y	S	O	F	S	C
O	N	L	M	C	E	M	I	S	E	K	F	I	E	T
C	H	C	E	M	E	R	O	C	N	P	W	G	V	S
G	N	I	T	H	G	I	L	N	O	O	M	D	N	L
B	L	I	N	D	T	R	U	S	T	S	O	S	F	J
R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	T	H	S	E	P	H
G	R	A	T	U	I	T	Y	K	T	I	Q	A	V	K
T	S	E	R	E	T	N	I	A	X	G	S	K	G	G



SOLUTION: OUTSIDE JOB HUNT

Last month's Puzzler was perhaps the most difficult one we've ever sent out, as it explored a number of tricky corners of Chapter 68. While each of the five hypothetical situations was correctly analyzed by *someone*, no one person got all five right, so, in a way, there is no winner this month. In another, somewhat less accurate way, **we're all winners**, because we get to learn something new about the law!

1. Lisa is a bit of a food buff and enjoys sharing her thoughts on recipes she finds online. During some downtime at work, she prints out six recipes on her City printer so that she can do her grocery shopping for the coming week on the way home from the office. As the recipes are printing, she has a chat with her coworker Jessie about cooking techniques, and forwards her an article with tips on onion-chopping using her City email account. **This is not a violation. Limited non-City use of City resources is permitted under Chapter 68 if the use is minimal, incidental, and personal (as Lisa's activities are). Some agencies have even adopted the City's [Acceptable Use Policy](#).**
2. When he's not teaching math in a NYC high school, Richard privately tutors students on the SATs (though [not students from his school](#)). During Richard's planning period, one of his tutees calls him on his personal cellphone to go over a practice test question. The call lasts less than ten minutes, and Richard doesn't plan to charge the student for the quick advice. **Violation! Even though the call is short and on a personal cell phone, it's still a client call conducted on City time — and yes, a teacher's planning period is still City time. No amount of City time can ever be used to pursue any outside business activity. Not even ten minutes.**
3. While inspecting a construction site, DOB Safety Inspector Slater overhears the foreman expressing dissatisfaction with his current supplier. Slater's brother is a supplier, so after the inspection is complete Slater gives the foreman his brother's business card, which he keeps in his wallet for just such an occasion. **This is a violation — a textbook example of misuse of position. Slater is leveraging his City power to attempt to secure a financial benefit for an "associated" party (in this case, he's trying to get a job for his brother from a foreman whose site he's inspecting).**
4. Kelly is a part-time DYCD worker. To make ends meet, she moonlights as a train conductor on the LIRR. One day her officemate Tori boards the train. Kelly decides not to punch Tori's ticket, allowing her to ride for free. **Not a violation! LIRR is not a City agency; therefore, Kelly's work as a conductor is not covered by Chapter 68. Tori's acceptance of the free ride is *also* not a violation of Chapter 68, because it is not a valuable gift from a firm that has (or is seeking) business dealings with the City, a gratuity for performing a City service, or a gift from a subordinate.**
5. Zack runs "Time Out!," a stock photography business, and he'd like to see how some of his pictures hold up when photocopied. During his lunch break, he runs a photo through the copier at his City office; satisfied with the result, he throws the sheet away. **This is a violation. As with City time, even a one-time business use of a City resource — in this case, the City paper and copier — is strictly prohibited.**