

To the Honorable,  
Mayor of Milwaukee and the members of the Common Council

**The City of Milwaukee Board of Ethics  
2016 Annual Report**

The City of Milwaukee Board of Ethics administers the Code of Ethics, Chapter 303, which promotes the essential element of public trust. The Board works to implement the Code by issuing confidential advisory opinions, investigating sworn complaints, requiring and reviewing the Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) forms of city employees and board members.

The Ethics Board met six times during 2016 for its regular meetings.

In 2016, the Board responded to three requests for confidential opinion. A summary of the opinion requests are included in this report. The summary should not be viewed as definitive advice, but rather as a guide to the type of situations addressed by the Board.

The seven citizen members of the Board for 2016 were:

Annie Wacker – Chair  
Robert Shelledy – Vice-Chair  
Patricia Hintz  
Joanne Barndt  
Carrie Davis  
Bradley Kalscheur  
Martha de la Rosa

## **Summary of Opinions Issued In 2016**

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

#### **16-1**

A City Employee requested an advisory opinion as to participating in the City of Milwaukee Homebuyer Assistance Program (HAP). The City Employee also requested an advisory opinion regarding salvaging City playground equipment and donating it to Zambia. The Board found that the City Employee may participate in the HAP program because the employee does not have access to any internal information not available to the public. The Board found that the City Employee may donate salvaged City playground equipment to Zambia because there is no personal benefit, income or profit. The City Employee submitted an affidavit to that effect.

#### **16-2**

A City Employee requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest if a City Department entered into a contract to form a partnership with a non-profit organization. The Board found that the proposed memorandum of understanding between the non-profit organization and the City Department, and future subgrantee relationships would violate state law.

#### **16-3**

A City Employee requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest if the City Employee engaged in outside employment. The Board found that the City Employee could engage in outside employment as long as they did not engage in the employment on City time, represent themselves as an agent of the City during their outside employment, or use any City supplies or computer programs.