

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

**The City of Milwaukee Board of Ethics
2018 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 Employee/Officials and board members.

The Ethics Board met eight times during 2018 for its regular meetings.

In 2018, the Board responded to one complaint and eight 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 five citizen members, (there are currently two vacancies) of the Board for 2018 were:

Annie Wacker – Chair
Robert Shelledy – Vice-Chair
Patricia Hintz
Joanne Barndt
Bradley Kalscheur

Summary of Opinions Issued In 2018

Complaint. The Board addressed one complaint from the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association.

Potential Conflicts of Interest

18-1

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest if the City Employee/Official engaged in outside employment. The Board found that the City Employee/Official could engage in outside employment as long as it did not interfere with their current position and job duties with the City, provided that the City Employee/Official complied with the general standards of conduct and more specific provisions governing conflicts of interest set forth in the City's Ethics Code, and provided that the City Employee/Official recuse themselves from any potential interactions between the City and the outside employer.

18-2

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest if the City Employee/Official engaged in outside employment. The Board found that the City Employee/Official could engage in outside employment as long as it did not interfere with their current position and job duties with the City, provided that the City Employee/Official complied with the general standards of conduct and more specific provisions governing conflicts of interest set forth in the City's Ethics Code, and provided that the City Employee/Official recuse themselves from any potential interactions between the City and the outside employer.

18-3

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest if a retiring member of an organization received a cash award while also serving on the Board that presents the award. The Board found that the cash award to the Board member could be reasonably considered as a reward for any official action or inaction on the part of that member, or as a reward for the member's years of service to the Board.

18-4

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion to a potential conflict of interest if he or she could vote to confirm an appointment of someone who has the potential to be their future supervisor. The Board found that voting to confirm the appointment would be a conflict of interest because of the potential direct benefit to the requestor.

18-5

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest if the City Employee/Official received apparel and shoes from a private organization, as a result of their participation in a running group outside of their City employment. The Board found that as long as the City Employee/Official disclosed to the

Ethics Board the value of the apparel on their annual Statement of Economic Interests, acceptance of the items would not constitute a conflict of interest under the Ethics Code.

18-6

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion as to whether their Conflict of Interest policy for employees of their department conforms to the City's Ethics Code. The Board determined that nothing in the Policy would constitute a violation of the City's Ethics Code.

18-8

A BID director requested an advisory opinion as to a potential conflict of interest as to whether or not a contract would violate the City's Ethics Code. The Board determined that the City's Ethics Code does not apply because the requestor is not a City employee or official.

18-9

A City Employee/Official requested an advisory opinion as to whether they could gift job-related books to their employees for the holidays. The Board determined that gifting the books could not reasonably be expected to influence any action or judgement of the staff, or be seen as a reward to their past conduct. The Board further determined that the value of the books is low enough that it would not be reasonable for a person to conclude their conveyance would influence any future action or judgement of the staff, or serve as a reward to a past action of judgement.