

ANSWERS FROM THE CITY ETHICIST

#5: Advice for a Job Hunter

Question: *I work at the Department of Buildings. I am thinking of returning to the private sector. Can I send my resume to local contractors and architects?—Joe, Cost Estimator*

Answer: *It depends. City employees are prohibited from job-hunting with any firm that they are personally involved with at a City worksite. Personal involvement means that you review the firm's permit applications, offer advice, or have any other direct participation in the firm's dealings with your agency.*



The same steer-clear approach goes for asking such firms if they have job openings or even mentioning that you're thinking of a job change. No one should think that it will be easier to get a City permit, an occupancy certificate, or any other City approval if they help a City worker to switch jobs.

If a firm that you're involved with tries to recruit you, let the firm know that you can't discuss working for them until your involvement with that company is finished.

Of course, no job hunting may be done during your City workday. And remember, NEVER use your office e-mail, fax machine, Internet access, or other City resources to find new employment.

Answers from the City Ethicist is written monthly by the staff of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board. COIB offers advice to City employees about City Charter Chapter 68, the Conflicts of Interest Law. Answers from the City Ethicist is provided as general information, and should not replace the text of Chapter 68. For legal advice on City ethics matters, please call the Board at 212-442-1400. All calls are confidential, and you may call anonymously if you wish. You may also visit us online at nyc.gov/ethics.