

Advisory Opinion No. 91-4

An elected official asked the Conflicts of Interest Board for an opinion as to whether it would be a violation of Chapter 68 of the City Charter to accept a \$500 honorarium for speaking at a meeting sponsored by a firm which, at the time of the elected official's speech, did not have business dealings with the City.

The topic of this speech was related to the elected official's official duties. The purpose of the meeting was to attract business for the firm sponsor. Those attending the meeting included representatives of a City agency.

A year after the meeting, the elected official was sent the honorarium on behalf of the firm which paid for the meeting. By then, the firm had numerous business dealings with several City agencies.

It is the opinion of the Board that the elected official should not accept the honorarium under these circumstances, to avoid creating the appearance that the honorarium was offered as a quid pro quo in return for the firm's getting City business. See Charter Section 2604(b)(3), which, among other things, prohibits a public servant from using his or her official position to obtain a personal financial advantage.

Sheldon Oliensis
Chair

Benjamin Gim

Beryl R. Jones

Robert J. McGuire

Shirley Adelson Siegel

Dated: July 18, 1991