

MAYOR  
THOM SERRANI



Advisory #1988-1

ATHANASIOS LOTER  
CHAIRMAN



CITY OF STAMFORD  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
BOARD OF ETHICS  
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD  
P.O. BOX 10152  
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

May 24, 1988

Paul A. Pacter  
Commissioner of Finance  
City of Stamford  
888 Washington Boulevard  
P.O. Box 10152  
Stamford, CT 06904 - 2152

Dear Mr. Pacter:

The Board of Ethics has considered your request for an advisory opinion in your letter of May 12, 1988.

The Board based its unanimous opinion on section 19 - 11 of the Code of Ethics which reads as follows:

"No officer or employee whose official position with the city is such that he could vote for or affect the granting or issuance of any permit, authorization, approval or other thing of value (whether by action or refraining from action) shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or agree to accept any gifts, favors or something of value in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per year, whether in the form of service, a loan at less than a commercially reasonable interest rate, material thing or promise of future employment, from or on behalf of any person if the officer or employee knows, should reasonably know or has reason to believe that the person seeks or is by the nature of the person likely to seek such a vote, permit, authorization, approval or other thing of value or is interested in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the city. If it is impossible or inappropriate to refuse the gift, then as the earliest possible date it shall be turned over to an appropriate public or charitable institution and the Board of Ethics shall be notified of the same. a "gift" shall not include a political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or cash, loan or something of value received from an individual's spouse and immediate family."

Our answers to your questions are based on the above section.

1. Acceptance of a complimentary ticket is not in violation of the Code, provided that the value of the ticket does not exceed \$25.00 in any one calendar year.
2. The Panel or staff member can accept one or two tickets, providing that the total value does not exceed \$25.00 in any one calendar year.
3. The retail price of the ticket(s) can not exceed \$25.00.
4. The retail value is the printed amount on the ticket. If that amount exceeds \$25.00, acceptance is construed as a violation of the code.

The Code is most specific and clear in the matter of accepting gifts and favors. As written in section 19 - 2, " The proper operation of the municipal government of the City of Stamford requires that all city officers and employees, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid, be impartial and responsible to the people; that public office and employment not be used for personal gain or advantage; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of the municipal government of Stamford."

Sincerely yours,

*Ann Weiss*

Ann Weiss  
Secretary, Board of Ethics

cc: Lois Pont-Briant, Town Clerk