

Sioux Falls Board of Ethics Advisory Opinions — 2006

1. A resident of Sioux Falls asked whether elected City officials could wear campaign buttons supporting or opposing a ballot issue at an official public meeting.

Opinion: It was the opinion of the Board that the wearing of the “YES” button by a City Council member at Council meetings did not present a conflict of interest of view of the political development involving the Rec Center at that particular time. The Board, however, restricted its finding to the specific facts at hand and did not extend its finding to future incidents. Instead, the Board cautioned all City of Sioux Falls elected officials that campaign buttons can offend people and that officials may be better off not wearing them.

2. Confidential Advisory Opinion

3. A Sioux Falls Fire Rescue employee asked if the Sioux Falls Firefighters Honor Guard could accept free admission to a Sioux Falls Storm football game in exchange for providing the honor guard ceremonies at that game.

Opinion: In the Board’s opinion, acceptance by the Sioux Falls Firefighters Honor Guard of free admission to Sioux Falls Storm football games at which they provide honor guard ceremonies would not violate City Ordinance, as the free admission would be considered an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value.

4. A Sioux Falls Fire Rescue employee asked if acceptance of gift certificates to be used by Sioux Falls Fire Rescue to purchase a meal would violate the City’s conflicts of interest ordinance.

Opinion: It is the opinion of the Board that acceptance by Sioux Falls Fire Rescue of the gift certificates for the purchase of a meal would not be a violation of City Ordinance § 12 ½ -5. The gift was an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value and therefore, its acceptance would not be considered a conflict of interest.

5. Confidential Advisory Opinion