

ROCHESTER FOR ALL

Secretary of the Board of Ethics
85 Allen St., Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14608

December 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a formal complaint to the Board of Ethics regarding the city's purchase of 100 copies of a book authored and self-published by Cedric Alexander.

In July 2016, the purchased 100 copies of "The New Guardians: Policing in America's Communities for the 21st Century." The cost was \$1,566. According to social media posts, the city held a book signing at a restaurant for Alexander, at which the books were given away free of charge.

Communications indicate Warren approved of this purchase, as she was directly informed.

This violated two portions of the city's Code of Ethics:

1. *"No City officer or employee, acting in the performance of his official duties, shall treat, whether by action or omission to act, any person more favorably than it is the custom and practice to treat the general public."* - The city does not buy large quantities of books from other authors and hold promotional events on their behalf. Alexander, through his stated friendship with Warren, obtained special treatment.
2. *"No City officer or employee shall use or permit the use of City owned vehicles, equipment, materials or property for the convenience or profit of himself or any other person."* - When the city purchased the books, they became city property. This property was used to promote Alexander's book, gain news coverage which

ROCHESTER FOR ALL

could lead to more sales, and benefit him financially, as he receives a portion of every sale. The city's purchase of the books was listed on Alexander's financial disclosure form.

There was no public benefit to this book purchase and giveaway. If the city was truly interested in having the book read, it would have purchased copies for the library system, where it remains unavailable. In addition, the book was not used in any professional development capacity.

I respectfully ask the Board of Ethics to issue an opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rachel Barnhart
26 Netherton Rd.
Rochester, NY 14609
rachel@rochesterforall.com