This is Game 5 for our Corporate Compliance Week activities. For this week’s exercise, read the scenario below and circle the number that corresponds to the point at which you think Officer Jim behaved unethically. Think about your position and summarize what factors impacted your decision. If time allows, include any relevant parts of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code that might have influenced you. Responses can be:

- Delivered to the Courthouse, Suite 212
- Faxed to: 414 223 1897, or
- Emailed to: mcethicsboard@milwaukeecounty.com

Please print a fax confirmation sheet or send your email return receipt so that you can have a record that our office successfully received your transmission.

We will be doing a drawing for participation as we have during the entire week of games.

Note: All responses will be handled confidentially; no participant’s response will be singled out in any manner. However, in the upcoming weeks, we will create a chart that identifies the total number of times a particular paragraph was selected. The chart will be available on our website.
Ethics Exercise

Did Officer Jim cross the ethical line? If so, where?

Scenario: Jim Widget is a state trooper. Mary Baker owns and operates a tavern and a waste-hauling company in the same city in which Jim lives. Other troopers have ticketed Mary for speeding, driving under the influence, and driving with open beer cans in a vehicle. Troopers have also ticketed drivers of her waste-hauling company for debris failing onto the interstate highways (which caused several crashes) and for often carrying overweight loads. Mary contested the citations but lost every time and paid fines. Although Jim patrols in that area from time to time, he has not caught or ticketed Mary or her drivers. Mary has been warned that she would lose her hauling permits if violations continue.

Please review the facts below to determine at what point, if ever, that Trooper Jim clearly crossed an ethical line such that he should be disciplined. Circle the number where you are sure Officer Jim first violated ethical standards, if you think he did at all. Do not circle any other numbers after you have circled the one where Officer Jim crossed an ethical line the first time.

1. Jim and Mary and their families attended St. Peters church at the same times.
2. Jim and Mary were among hundreds of people who worked on the same church festival.
3. When a golf outing was held as part of the festival’s fund-raiser, Jim and Mary golfed as did about 40 other people.
4. Jim and Mary played in the same foursome at the church’s golf outing.
5. After the festival, 15 adult church members, including Jim and Mary and their spouses, went on a one-evening trip to a play in Milwaukee. They all rode in a coach bus. Each person paid his or her own expenses.
6. Some people liked the trip so much that they scheduled another trip for the following month. Jim and his wife and Mary and her husband were among the 10 church members who made the trip (and each person paid his or her own expenses).
7. After the second trip, six people went golfing the next day, including Jim and Mary and their spouses.
8. Just as they were going to return to their hometown the next day, the group stopped at a restaurant to eat. Jim paid for his and his wife’s meals, but Mary paid for everyone else and paid the tip of $65.
9. Jim and Mary and their spouses went golfing as a foursome the next month, and each person paid his or her fees and post-game drinks. Mary again paid the tip (this time it was $30).
10. Jim and Mary and their spouses decided to become a golf team in the church-sponsored league that includes 40 other people.
11. Mary had a set of free tickets to a Neil Diamond concert in Wisconsin Dells and gave them to Jim and his wife. Mary had won the free tickets on a radio call-in show.

Source: Ethics, Values and The Public Manager: Understanding Ethics, and Using Them To Improve and Maintain Good Conduct in Public Service by Al Guyant