



Prohibited Conduct RMC § 2.78.060(D)

Advocacy of Private Interest of
Third Parties in certain circumstances
Prohibited

Board of Ethics

July 2, 2026

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CHAPTER 2.78 CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT

Established

- * The Riverside City Council established a code of ethics and conduct that apply to the Mayor, members of the City Council, and all members of appointed boards, commissions and committees

(RMC § 2.78.010).

Purpose

- * The purpose of this Code of Ethics/Conduct is to achieve fair, ethical, and accountable local government for the City of Riverside

(RMC § 2.78.020).



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COMPLAINANT QUALIFICATION

To submit a complaint, a party must either:

- * Live, work (including vendors/contractors) or attend school in Riverside; unless
- * The alleged violation took place outside the boundaries of the City of Riverside and the complaining party personally witnessed or observed the alleged violation *(RMC § 2.78.040F)*.



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RMC § 2.78.060(D) PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Elected officials shall refrain from:

- * Appearing on behalf of the private interest of third parties before the City Council.

Appointed members of boards, commissions or committees shall refrain from:

- * Appearing before their own body on behalf of the private interests of third parties



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ADVOCATING THIRD PARTY INTEREST

Examples of advocating for the private interest of a third party:

- A planning commission member speaks during public comment before their fellow board members advocating approval of a housing project being developed by a close friend.
- A councilmember speaking during city council public comment advocating against an imminent domain project that will affect a relative's commercial building.
- A board of ethics member speaking during public comment, advocating for a councilmember who is being investigated for committing a prohibited conduct.



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EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the prohibited use of City Resources by Public Officials include:

- Routine or ministerial inquiries on behalf of constituents such as asking about a municipal service.
- Speaking on behalf of an organization that they are a part of, such as a homeowner's association or nonprofit, as long as they don't cross the line into compensated lobbying or explicitly leveraging their official title for private gain.
- If the third party's interest is part of a broader, community-wide policy decision—rather than a specific, localized private benefit—officials can advocate for the overarching measure.



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CONCLUSION

QUESTIONS?



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