



## RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE 2.78 - CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT ANNUAL REVIEW PRESENTATION

GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE

September 3, 2025

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### BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Under "RMC 2.78.040.F, insert "*including vendors and contractors*" after work to read:

F. Only those who live, work [\(including vendors and contractors\)](#), or attend school in Riverside may bring a complaint, unless the alleged violation took place outside of the boundaries of the City of Riverside and the complaining party must have personally witnessed or observed the alleged violation.



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## BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Under “RMC 2.78.050 - Core Values”, add “I” regarding digital communications to read:

- I. Digital communication must reflect the City's commitment to impartiality, fairness, and integrity. Online activity, messages or actions should not create, or appear to create, bias, partisanship, a conflict of interest, or predisposition on pending City matters.



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## BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Under “RMC 2.78.060 - Prohibited conduct”, add “O” regarding digital misconduct prohibited to read:

- O. Digital misconduct prohibited. Those subject to this code are prohibited from engaging in digital misconduct. Online activity or messages that create, or appear to create, bias, partisanship, a conflict of interest, or predisposition on pending City matters are strictly prohibited. Any violation of prohibited conduct under this code shall encompass online activity while representing your appointed or elected position.



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## BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Under "RMC 2.78.070.A – Written complaint procedures", add language regarding "whistleblower" complaints to read:

A. Only alleged violations of the prohibited conduct section of this chapter shall be grounds for a complaint against any public official pursuant to this chapter. **Complainants are covered by whistleblower policies and the City will not retaliate nor tolerate retaliation against those who, in good faith, report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse, or participate in an investigation of a suspected violation.**



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## BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Under RMC sections 2.78.070.5 and 2.78.075.1.c", correct clerical error replacing "2.78.070(M)" with "2.78.060(M)" and remove "including when the policy of the City of Riverside was established" for alleged violations of Local Law Prohibited to read:

...For alleged violations of RMC Section **2.78.060(M)**, the complaining party must identify the specific section(s) of the Charter of the City of Riverside or the Riverside Municipal Code, or the policy of the City of Riverside, ~~including when the policy of the City of Riverside was established~~, that is alleged to have been violated...



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## BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Under RMC 2.78.070 Section E, revise the statute of limitations from 1 year to 2 years from the alleged violation date:

- E. Complaints shall be filed with the City Clerk no later than ~~one year~~ **two** years from the date of the alleged violation.



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## BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS

Lastly, under RMC 2.78.110, update "Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee" to "Governmental Processes Committee" to reflect the name change that took place January 16, 2024.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Governmental Processes Committee:

1. Perform the annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for its effectiveness;
2. Consider the Board of Ethics recommendations for revisions; and
3. Submit its recommendations to the City Council as required by the Riverside Municipal Code.



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