



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: JULY 11, 2022

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

ISSUE:

Conduct the annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Conduct the annual review of the Riverside Code of Ethics and Conduct; and
2. Provide any recommendations to the Board of Ethics.

BACKGROUND:

On June 27, 2022, the Board of Public Utilities heard this item and requested it be continued to the meeting of July 11, 2022, to consider comments that were made in 2021 to the City Council for revisions. Attached are two Council reports, from February 15, 2022 and December 14, 2021, which set forth the proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics that are under consideration by the City Council.

Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 2.78 established a Code of Ethics and Conduct for elected officials and members of appointed boards, commissions, and committees. The annual review is identified in RMC 2.78.110 – Monitoring and oversight as follows:

- A. Prior to the end of July of each year, the boards and commissions shall agendaize and discuss at a regular meeting this Code of Ethics and Conduct and submit to the Board of Ethics any recommendations for the Board's consideration.
- B. Prior to the end of August of each year, the Board of Ethics shall agendaize and discuss at a regular meeting the effectiveness of this Code of Ethics and Conduct, recommendations of the other boards and commissions, and submit to the Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee its recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

Municipal Code 2.78 regarding the Code of Ethics and Conduct for elected officials and members of appointed boards, commissions, and committees is attached for review. Any recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Ethics no later than July 22, 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority No. 5 – High Performing Government** and **Goal 5.3** – Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust and encourage shared decision-making. This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Open discussion of the Code of Ethics and Conduct allows for community participation and for meaningful feedback to be received by the Board of Ethics in their assessment of the effectiveness of the Code of Ethics and Conduct.
2. **Equity** – Discussion of the Code of Ethics and Conduct helps to ensure that City's commitment to advancing the fairness of treatment, recognition of rights, and equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share in the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Discussion of the Code Ethics and Conduct helps ensure that Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds.
4. **Innovation** – Discussion of the Code of Ethics and Conduct opens the door for innovative thinking and new ideas in this process.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Discussion of the Code Ethics and Conduct supports Riverside's commitment to be a resilient City that will persevere, adapt, and grow.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Certifies availability
of funds: Edward Enriquez, Interim Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Attachments:

1. RMC 2.78 – Code of Ethics and Conduct
2. City Council Memo 2-15-22
3. City Council Memo 12-14-21