



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

CITY COUNCIL
December 3, 2024

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BOARD OF ETHICS PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Ethics proposed changes to:

1. RMC 2.78.060.M to separate violations pertaining to "Local Law" from "Federal and State laws";
2. RMC 2.78.070.E regarding the statute of limitations from one year from the date of the alleged violation to three years from the date of alleged violation;
3. RMC 2.78.080.O, adding *a recommendation for sanctions to statement of findings*;
4. RMC 2.78.090.A regarding appeals of pre-conference decisions;
5. RMC 2.78.090.B regarding sanctions by the City Council; and
6. Authority to the Board of Ethics to compel the appearance of a City representative in response to a filed complaint.



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GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS PROPOSED REVISIONS

The Board of Ethics recommended revising **RMC 2.78.060.M - Prohibited conduct** to separate violations pertaining to "Local Law" from "Federal and State laws" and adding **RMC 2.78.060.N** for violations of Federal and state laws as reflected on next slide:

- M. Violations of ~~Federal, state, or~~ Local Law Prohibited. *No public official of the City of Riverside shall intentionally or repeatedly violate the Charter of the City of Riverside, the Riverside Municipal Code, or any established policies of the City of Riverside affecting the operations of local government ~~or be convicted of violation of any state or federal law pertaining to the office which they hold.~~*



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GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS PROPOSED REVISIONS

- N. **Convictions of Federal or State law affecting their office Prohibited.** *No public official of the City of Riverside shall be convicted, or enter a plea of no contest, of a violation of any state or federal law that affects the performance of their duties in the office that they hold.*

The Governmental Processes Committee (GPC) accepted the Board of Ethics proposed revision to RMC 2.78.060.M and addition of RMC 2.78.060.N with the insertion of "or enter a plea of no contest" as reflected in red above.



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GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS PROPOSED REVISIONS

The Board of Ethics recommended revision to:

RMC 2.78.080 – Hearing procedures:

- O. All findings shall be approved by a majority vote of the hearing panel and recorded by the City Clerk. The hearing panel may approve such findings at the conclusion of the hearing and direct the City Clerk to prepare the statement of findings or designate members of the hearing panel to prepare the statement of findings [to include a recommendation for sanctions.](#)

The Governmental Processes Committee accepted the proposed revision to RMC 2.78.080.O as reflected above.



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GPC RECOMMENDS NO CHANGE

The GPC recommended to make no changes to the following sections:

1. RMC 2.78.070.E regarding the statute of limitations;
2. RMC 2.78.090.A regarding appeals of pre-conference decisions; and
3. RMC 2.78.090.B regarding sanctions by the City Council.



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REFERRED BACK TO BOARD OF ETHICS

Lastly, the Board of Ethics recommended that the City Council give authority to the Board of Ethics to compel the appearance of a City representative in response to a filed complaint.

The Governmental Processes Committee referred the recommendation above back to the Board of Ethics for further discussion.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Perform the annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for its effectiveness;
2. Approve the Governmental Processes Committee recommended revisions to the Code of Ethics and Conduct; and
3. Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for introduction and adoption reflecting the revisions as outlined in the report.



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