



Board of Ethics

Report to Boards, Commissions and Committees

April 25, 2019

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BOARD OF ETHICS PURPOSE

Advise and make
recommendations to City
Council on all matters
pertaining to adoption, revision,
administration, and
enforcement of Code of Ethics
and Conduct.



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Prohibited Conduct

- Section 2.78.060 of Riverside Municipal Code
 - Use of official title or position for personal gain
 - Use or divulgence of confidential or privileged information
 - Use of City resources for non-City purposes
 - Advocacy of private interests of 3rd parties in certain circumstances
 - Endorsements for compensation
- Violation of Government Code Sections 87100 et seq.



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Prohibited Conduct

- Section 2.78.060 of Riverside Municipal Code
 - Certain political activity is prohibited
 - Display of campaign materials in or on city vehicles
 - Knowingly assisting another public official in violating this Code of Ethics and Conduct
 - Negotiation for employment with any party having a matter pending before the City Council or any City Board or Commission



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Prohibited Conduct

- Section 2.78.060 of Riverside Municipal Code
 - Ex Parte contact in quasi-judicial matters
 - Attempts to coerce official duties prohibited
 - 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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CORE VALUES

- To strive to create a government that is trusted by everyone
- To strive to make decisions that are unbiased, fair, and honest
- To strive to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and in a just and fair manner
- To strive to create a community that affirms the value of diversity



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CORE VALUES

- To strive to ensure that all public decisions are well informed, independent, and in the best interest of the City of Riverside
- To strive to maintain a nonpartisan and civic minded local government
- To ensure that all public officials are adequately prepared for the duties of their office
- To strive to ensure that appointed members of boards, commissions and committees attend regularly scheduled meetings



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COMPLAINT HEARINGS

Since adoption of Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 2.78 Code of Ethics and Conduct on April 15, 2016

- First meeting on August 31 2016
- 10 complaint hearings
- 10 Ethics Panel findings that Code was not violated
- 9 appeals to the City Council
- 9 appeals upheld the Ethics Panel findings
- 4 complaints against Board, Committee or Commission members



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CODE AMENDMENTS

- Adopted by City Council in December 2017
 - Violations of local law must be intentional or repeated
 - Must be convicted of violation of state/federal law
 - May be unethical to engage in prohibited conduct
 - Refinement of process timing



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CODE AMENDMENTS

- Adopted by City Council in May 2018
- Pre-hearing conference for hearing panel to determine:
 - If minimum requirements of Code of Ethics process are met
 - If it is more likely than not that there may be a violation of the Code
 - If yes, schedule full hearing
 - If not, full hearing not scheduled (appealable to City Council)
- At pre-hearing conference, hearing panel will also:
 - Consider subpoena requests
 - Set time limits for presentation of evidence



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CODE AMENDMENTS

- Adopted by City Council in July 2018
- Defined scope of examination of witnesses
- Clarified presentation of rebuttal evidence at complaint hearings



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PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS

- Currently
 - Complaint form
 - Step-by-step process guide
 - Hearing Rules and Procedures
- Upcoming
 - Interactive hearing procedures flowchart
 - Outreach plan with materials for Ethics Board members



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HOW COMMISSION AND BOARD MEMBERS CAN HELP

- Be familiar with the Brown Act and comply with it
- Be familiar with Board and Commission Rules and comply with them
- Offer suggestions on process improvements, if any, as part of the required annual review of the Ethics Board prior to the end of July annually
- Refer those with concerns to the City Clerks' Office for forms and information

