



City of Arts & Innovation

Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee

**TO: INCLUSIVENESS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020
AND GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE**

FROM: CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: BOARD OF ETHICS RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL
CODE CHAPTER 2.78**

ISSUES:

Amendment to Section 2.78.100 to the Riverside Municipal Code to incorporate additional sanctions for violating the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee recommend the City Council:

1. Amend Riverside Municipal Code Section 2.78.200 to incorporate additional sanctions for violating the Code of Ethics.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On February 6, 2020, the Board of Ethics unanimously approved amending Chapter 2.78 to add additional sanctions for violating the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

BACKGROUND:

On October 1, 2019, at a City Council meeting, Councilmember Jim Perry recommended that the Board of Ethics consider alternatives to public censure of elected officials such as removal from committees, removal as committee chair, removal from representation on regional committees, and removal from mayor pro tempore rotation. The matter was placed on the Board of Ethics December 5, 2019 Agenda.

DISCUSSION:

On December 5, 2019, the Board of Ethics created an ad hoc committee to explore alternatives to public censure of elected officials for violation of the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

On January 2, 2020, the ad hoc committee reported its recommendations for sanctions for violation of the Code of Ethics and Conduct. The Board recommended amending Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 2.78 to add sanctions for elected officials to include (1) public apology by the official to complainant, (2) recommendation for training, (3) removal from regional committees, (4) removal from mayor pro tem rotation, (5) public censure, and (6) restrict from traveling to attend meetings or conferences outside the City; and for appointed officials to include (1) public apology by the official to the complainant, (2) recommendation for training, (3) removal from chair, vice-chair, or other leadership position, and (4) removal from the board or commission. A draft ordinance with the proposed changes to Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 2.78 is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Brandon S. Mercer, Sr. Deputy City Attorney

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Draft Ordinance