



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: October 6, 2020
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 City Council:

1. Amend Riverside Municipal Code Section 2.78.100 to incorporate additional sanctions for violating the Code of Ethics.
2. Introduce and adopt the attached ordinance.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee met on August 5, 2020, with Chair Melendrez, Vice-Chair Fierro, and Member Conder present, to consider sanction alternatives for Code of Ethics and Conduct violations. After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council amend Riverside Municipal Code Section 2.78.100 to incorporate additional sanctions for violating the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

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.

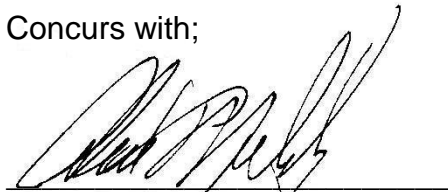
FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Concurs with;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Melendrez', is written over a horizontal line.

Andy Melendrez, Chair
Inclusiveness, Community Engagement,
and Governmental Processes Committee

Attachment: Ordinance