



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Ethics Memorandum

TO: BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2024

FROM: CHAIR VEGA

WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT ANNUAL REVIEW UPDATE ON
GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct recommendations of the Governmental Processes Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Ethics receive an update on the annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct recommendations of the Governmental Processes Committee (GPC).

DISCUSSION:

On September 4, 2024, the Board of Ethics Chair Vega and Members Hernandez and Dr. Benson presented the Code of Ethics and Conduct proposed revisions for consideration to the GPC. The GPC recommended to forward the proposed revisions to the City Council as proposed by the Board of Ethics to the following sections:

1. Revision to Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Section 2.78.060(M) regarding Violations of federal, state, or local law prohibited; as proposed:

M. Violations of 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.

2. Add "Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Section 2.78.060(N) as proposed with underlined insertion:

N. Convictions of Federal or State Laws 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.

3. Under RMC 2.78.080.O, add to the end of the second sentence, "prepare a statement of findings to include a recommendation for sanctions."

The GPC recommended to make no changes to the RMC sections as proposed by the Board of Ethics:

1. Under RMC 2.78.070 Section E, revise the statute of limitations from 1 year to 3 years from the alleged violation date.
2. Revise RMC 2.78.090 A to read "decision of a pre-conference or hearing panel of the Board of Ethics may be appealed to the City Council by either party."
3. Under Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) 2.78.090.B, remove "if applicable" and add "City Council will determine the level of sanctions that should be imposed."

Furthermore, the request by the Board of Ethics for authority to compel the appearance of a City representative in response to a filed complaint was referred back to the Board of Ethics for further discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the annual review.

Prepared by: Chair Gil Vega