



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Public Safety & Governance

Councilmember Scotty Johnson, Chair
Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Kearney, Vice Chair
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember Anna Albi

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

9:30 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PRESENTATIONS

Juvenile Crime Update

Chief Theetge, Cincinnati Police Department

AGENDA

1. [202400381](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)**, submitted by Councilmember Owens, from Emily Smart Woerner, **ADOPTING** a Council Code of Conduct pursuant to Section 101-45, "Code of Conduct," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to govern conduct by Councilmembers and their staff.

Sponsors: Owens
Attachments: [Transmittal](#)
[Ordinance](#)
[Attachment](#)

ADJOURNMENT



202400381

Date: January 31, 2024

To: Councilmember Meeka Owens
From: Emily Smart Woerner, City Solicitor *EESW*
Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – 2024 Council Code of Conduct**

Transmitted herewith is an emergency ordinance captioned as follows:

ADOPTING a Council Code of Conduct pursuant to Section 101-45, “Code of Conduct,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to govern conduct by Councilmembers and their staff.

EESW/CMZ(dmm)
Attachment
396343

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

CMZ

FE3W

An Ordinance No. _____

-2024

ADOPTING a Council Code of Conduct pursuant to Section 101-45, "Code of Conduct," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to govern conduct by Councilmembers and their staff.

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2020, Council passed Ordinance 384-2020, establishing the Economic Development Reform Panel ("EDRP"), with a mission of studying the City's development process and making recommendations regarding best practices regarding economic development to insulate the development process from political influence and cronyism; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2021, the EDRP submitted its report and recommendations to Council, which included that Council and the Mayor adopt and abide by Codes of Conduct setting out expected behaviors for elected officials particularly in relation to the development process; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2021, Council amended Chapter 101 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to create new Section 101-45, "Code of Conduct," to require City Council to adopt and abide by a code of conduct as recommended by the EDRP; and

WHEREAS, the attached Code of Conduct contains guidelines to promote the aspirational goals of good, open government; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to adopt the attached Code of Conduct for members of Council and their staff; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That pursuant to Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 101-45, Council approves and adopts the attached Council Code of Conduct which will govern the conduct of members of Council and their staff.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to put Codes of Conduct in place as required by Section 101-45

of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to govern the behavior of elected officials and their staff in order to restore public trust.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

City Council

Code of Conduct

- 1) Recognize the charter role of the Mayor, Council, and City Manager, particularly in contracting, development projects, and incentives;
- 2) Recognize the obligation of elected officials and staff to not attempt to privately interfere with quasi-judicial proceedings of boards and commissions or the zoning hearing examiner;
- 3) Cultivate a culture of reporting of conflicts of interest and unethical conduct to the City Manager, City Solicitor, Ohio Ethics Commission, or other appropriate authority, and a commitment to avoid retaliating against those who report suspected conflicts or unethical conduct;
- 4) Commit to understanding and following the applicable ethics and conflict of interest laws (<https://ethics.ohio.gov/education/factsheets/EthicsLawOverview.pdf>);
- 5) Commit to attend training at least annually on Ohio ethics laws and other state and local laws pertinent to the role of the Council;
- 6) Commit to never use City resources or personnel for political activity;
- 7) Support the integrity of the City's development processes and prompt public trust by directing inquiries from developers related to financial assistance or land use approvals to the City Manager's Office so that they can be handled uniformly and through transparent City administrative processes;
- 8) Commit to taking official actions on City funding and appropriation priorities in an open, transparent, and public manner;
- 9) Not use City resources or personnel to disclose confidential information obtained through the performance of City work for private gain or publicity or as prohibited by Ohio Revised Code section 102.03(B);
- 10) Adhere to all applicable laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, sexual or reproductive health decisions, natural hairstyle, disability, military status, familial status, housing status, or breastfeeding status;
- 11) Report, without undue delay, to the City Manager, City Solicitor, Ohio Ethics Commission, or other appropriate authority, conduct in the performance of official duties that is reasonably believed to violate the law or reasonably believed to violate this code of conduct.