

City Council

Code of Conduct

As a member of the Council of the City of Cincinnati, or as a staff member of any Council office, I understand and solemnly affirm my obligation to uphold the City Charter, comply with all applicable laws, and conduct myself in a manner that promotes integrity, transparency, and public trust. Accordingly, I commit to the following principles and standards of conduct:

- 1) Recognizing the Charter-defined roles of the Mayor, Council, and the City Manager, particularly with respect to contracting, development projects, and incentives;
- 2) Recognizing 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) Cultivating a culture that encourages reporting of conflicts of interest and unethical conduct to the City Manager, City Solicitor, Ohio Ethics Commission, or other appropriate authority, and committing to refrain from retaliating against those who report suspected conflicts or unethical conduct;
- 4) Understanding and complying with all applicable ethics and conflict of interest laws;
- 5) Attending training at least annually on Ohio ethics laws and other state and local laws pertinent to the role of Council;
- 6) Never using City resources or personnel for political activity;
- 7) Supporting 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) Taking official actions on City funding and appropriation priorities in an open, transparent, and public manner;
- 9) Never using 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) Adhering 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) Reporting, 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; and
- 12) *For staff members only:* adhering to and being subject to all administrative regulations of the City of Cincinnati, as adopted or amended from time to time.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Code of Conduct, affirm my commitment to comply with its provisions, and agree to conduct myself in accordance with the City Charter, applicable law, and the ethical standards governing service to the City of Cincinnati.

Signature

Date

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