

**City of Cincinnati  
Law Department  
Office of Ethics &  
Good Government**

*Andrew Garth, City Solicitor  
Chris Liu, EGG Counselor*

# Introduction to Ethics & Good Government

The Office of Ethics & Good Government was created by Council Ordinance # 0413-2021 and is codified in Art. III, Sec. 10, of the Administrative Code.

Chris Liu, formerly the Chief Hearing Examiner and an Assistant City Prosecutor, was selected to be the inaugural Ethics & Good Government Counselor.



# What is Our Purpose?



To prioritize compliance with Ohio Ethics Laws, Cincinnati Ethics Laws, and the recently enacted Codes of Conduct.

To serve as a primary point of contact for ethics questions for the City Administration and the City's elected officials.

To improve the transparency of City Business and Municipal Elections—and investigate complaints.

To support the Cincinnati Election Commission and serve as a liaison to the Ohio Ethics Commission.

# What Have We Done So Far?

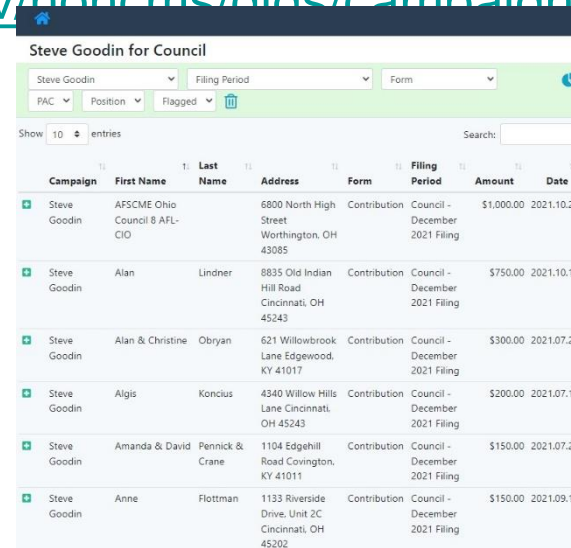
Worked to ensure the speedy online publication of the post election campaign finance reports.

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/poncms/digs/campaign-finance/>



A screenshot of a web application interface for searching campaign filings. At the top, there is a blue search bar with the text "Search Campaign Filings". Below the search bar is a table with two columns: "Campaign" and "Description". The table lists several campaigns, including "Friends of Aftab Pureval", "Garry For Cincinnati", "Friends of Dani Isaacsohn (Not on Ballot)", "Citizens For Bauman", "Holt for Cincinnati", "Friends of Gavi Bagtrup", "Friends of Najoli", "Jaime Castle for City Council", "Keep Kearney on Council", and "Elect John J. Williams to Cincinnati City Council".

Campaign	Description	Campaign	Description
Aftab Pureval	Friends of Aftab Pureval	Andrew Kennedy	Voteforkennedy.org
Brian Garry	Garry For Cincinnati	Cecil Thomas	Citizens for Cecil Thomas
Dani Isaacsohn	Friends of Dani Isaacsohn (Not on Ballot)	David Mann	Mann for Cincinnati
Derek Bauman	Citizens For Bauman	Elizabeth Anne Sundermann	Sundermann For Cincinnati
Evan Holt	Holt for Cincinnati	Galen Gordon	Friends For Galen Gordon
Gavi Bagtrup	Friends of Gavi Bagtrup	Greg Landsman	Landsman for Cincinnati
Herman J. Najoli	Friends of Najoli	Jaclyn Frondorf	Families For Frondorf
Jaime Castle	Jaime Castle for City Council	Jalen Shontez Alford	Alford for Cincinnati
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney	Keep Kearney on Council	Jeff Cramerding	Cramerding for Council
Jim Tarbell		John J. Williams	Elect John J. Williams to Cincinnati City Council



A screenshot of a web application interface for a specific campaign, "Steve Goodin for Council". The page shows a search bar with "Steve Goodin" entered, and a "Filing Period" dropdown menu. Below the search bar is a table with columns: "Campaign", "First Name", "Last Name", "Address", "Form", "Filing Period", "Amount", and "Date". The table lists several contributions to the campaign, including "AFSCME Ohio Council 8 AFL-CIO", "Alan Lindner", "Alan & Christine Obryan", "Algis Koncius", "Amanda & David Pennick & Crane", and "Anne Flottman".

Campaign	First Name	Last Name	Address	Form	Filing Period	Amount	Date
Steve Goodin	AFSCME Ohio Council 8 AFL-CIO		6800 North High Street Worthington, OH 43085	Contribution	Council - December 2021 Filing	\$1,000.00	2021.10.25
Steve Goodin	Alan	Lindner	8835 Old Indian Hill Road Cincinnati, OH 45243	Contribution	Council - December 2021 Filing	\$750.00	2021.10.12
Steve Goodin	Alan & Christine	Obryan	621 Willowbrook Lane Edgewood, KY 41017	Contribution	Council - December 2021 Filing	\$300.00	2021.07.22
Steve Goodin	Algis	Koncius	4340 Willow Hills Lane Cincinnati, OH 45243	Contribution	Council - December 2021 Filing	\$200.00	2021.07.11
Steve Goodin	Amanda & David	Pennick & Crane	1104 Edgehill Road Covington, KY 41011	Contribution	Council - December 2021 Filing	\$150.00	2021.07.22
Steve Goodin	Anne	Flottman	1133 Riverside Drive, Unit 2C Cincinnati, OH 45202	Contribution	Council - December 2021 Filing	\$150.00	2021.09.19

## What Have We Done So Far? (Part 2)



Worked with newly elected officials to proactively identify potential conflicts of interest and incompatible employment.

Worked with the City Solicitor to support Council and the Mayor in the adoption of Codes of Conduct.

## What Have We Done So Far? (Part 3)

Arranged for Ohio Ethics Commission to present comprehensive ethics training for elected officials.

Collaborated with the Ohio Ethics Commission regarding ethics and conflicts advice to City officials.



## What Have We Done So Far? (Part 4)



Supported the Cincinnati Election Commission's work to investigate potential campaign finance violations.

Facilitated an ongoing independent audit of all City Business from 2018 to 2020 conducted by Crowe LLP.

## What Have We Done So Far? (Part 5)

Worked with Human Resources to set up comprehensive annual ethics trainings for non-elected City employees.

Hired two additional support staff, and cross-trained OAH staff, to increase compacity for future investigative and compliance work.





# What's in the Works? (City Business List)

Working with Enterprise Technology Solutions to build an online, public facing, portal to link campaign contributions, including donations to political action committees, with a list of matters pending before City Council.

Rough Draft Mock Up of Public Portal to Query City Business

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/law/egg/city+business/query> 📄 ☆ 🔴

## Ethics & Good Government -- City Business Query

The City of Cincinnati Business List includes pending matters from the City Planning Commission, the Department of Community & Economic Development, and traditional sources of business activity. It identifies the principal agent(s) and primary investor(s) seeking to do business with the Municipal Government. It cross references known campaign contributions from those interested parties to current elected officials.

If you have additional information--or you would like to make a public records request--please email [Ethics@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Ethics@cincinnati-oh.gov).

### City Business Query Form

Active City Business (By Ordinance #)	<input type="text"/>	▼
Entities With Active City Business	<input type="text"/>	▼
Campaign Contributions (By Elected Official)	<input type="text"/>	▼

Search

# What's in the Works? (City Business List)


This resource will enhance transparency in economic development and allow City officials to better recognize potential conflicts of interest.

The current plan is to capture data and identify the proponents of big development projects at the Planning Commission stage, or in the DCED application stage, and to link it with the campaign finance disclosures.

This process would be managed and refined by the Office of Ethics & Good Government.


# What's in the Works? (Ethics Hotline)

Working with Internal Audit to implement the EDRP's recommendation of a consolidated "Ethics, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline." There would also be a web-based form and a paper form to register complaints.

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## ETHICS & GOOD GOVERNMENT

### Ethics, Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline

Ethics & Good Government maintains an "Ethics, Fraud, Waste and Abuse" hotline which allows employees and citizens to safely and anonymously alert the City to potential problems.

There is also an online form ([please click here](#)) to report the same. There is also a paper form located at 805 Central Avenue, Suite 110, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Current City employees are protected under Ordinance No. 468-1987, which prohibits retaliation against employees for whistle blower actions. A person could also choose to remain completely anonymous.


When calling the hotline, please provide the following information:

- Details of your concern
- The names of all individuals involved (if possible)
- The dates/times of the incident(s) and where it/they occurred
- Any other information that would assist Internal Audit in the investigation

\*PLEASE NOTE: Under Ohio law, complaint forms or letters may at some time become public records subject to disclosure under the Ohio Public Records Act. Documents that are deemed to be public records are available to the public, including the media, upon request for review, copying, and release.


The hotline and online form are monitored during normal business hours. Please leave your contact information if you wish to have a return call. If you are experiencing an emergency, please notify the Cincinnati Police.

Ethics & Good Government does not investigate routine personnel issues such as employee grievances or complaints relating to civil rights and equal employment. These types of issues may be referred to the appropriate City department or external agency.

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## ETHICS & GOOD GOVERNMENT

### Ethics, Fraud, Waste & Abuse Online Form

You may complete this online form anonymously.

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Date of Incident

Details of What Occurred

Names of People Involved

Location of Incident

\* Please note, under Ohio law, complaint forms or letters may at some time become public records subject to disclosure under the Ohio Public Records Act. Documents that are deemed to be public records are available to the public, including the media, upon request for review, copying, and release.

Ethics & Good Government does not investigate routine personnel issues such as employee grievances or complaints relating to civil rights and equal employment. These types of issues may be referred to the appropriate City department or external agency.

## What's in the Works? (Ethics Hotline)

This resource will allow City employees and the public to anonymously report suspected illegal, unethical, or wasteful activities in connection with any City operations.

The current plan is for the Office of Ethics & Good Government to act as a central clearing house for complaints, and to investigate matters which are ethical in nature.

## What's in the Works? (The Future)

It is important for the Office of Ethics & Good Government to do more outreach with City employees and the public—so they know these resources exist and so they will engage us with their concerns.

It is anticipated the Office of Ethics & Good Government will grow and evolve over time. We'll keep you updated as this important work progresses.

# Direct Contact Information

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QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!