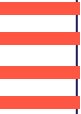


Welcome!

Ethics Training 2023





Areas of Ethical Integrity



Use of Office

Do I use my position for personal benefit?



Kickbacks

Do I get compensation or gifts for my assistance or cooperation in city transactions?



City Regulations

Do I benefit from my position due to businesses regulated by the city?



Doing Business with the City

Am I benefiting personally from any business entity doing business with the City?



Personal Investments

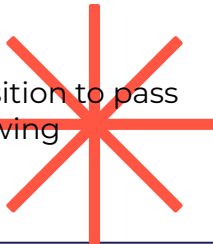
Do I have any personal or family investments that are creating a conflict of interest for me?





Ethical Failures

- In 2014, the Mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, Patrick Cannon, was arrested and charged with multiple counts of public corruption. Cannon, who was also a former city council member, was accused of accepting over \$50,000 in bribes from undercover agents posing as developers seeking his assistance in securing permits and zoning changes.
- In 2015, the Mayor of Detroit, Michigan, Kwame Kilpatrick, was sentenced to 28 years in federal prison for corruption... Kilpatrick was found guilty of using his position as mayor to steer city contracts to his friend, Bobby Ferguson.
- In 2017, Chris Collins, a former Congressman from New York, was charged with insider trading. Collins was also accused of using his position as a Congressman to influence regulatory decisions that would benefit his own financial interests.
- In 2012, the Mayor of Washington, North Carolina, Mac Hodges, was found to have used his position to pass a zoning ordinance that limited competition in the towing industry and benefitted his own towing business.



Ethical Dilemmas: Grey Areas

An ethical dilemma is a problem in the decision-making process between two possible options, neither of which is absolutely ideal from an ethical perspective.

- What ethical dilemmas have you faced in your position?
- What has helped you recognize them as ethical dilemmas?
- What decision did you make and why?



Navigating Ethical Situations



- What “chains” exist to help us navigate ethical dangers?
 1. City Policies
 2. Laws
 3. Procedures
 4. Regulations
 5. Mentors
 6. Personal Belief Systems



Scenario # 1

Scenario: A property owner in a residential neighborhood applies for a conditional use permit to operate a small restaurant out of their home. The application meets all zoning requirements and the owner has taken steps to address concerns about noise and parking.

During a public hearing on the application, several neighbors express strong opposition to the proposal, citing concerns about increased traffic, noise, and potential impacts on property values. The planning commission is sympathetic to these concerns and recommends denying the permit application.



Scenario # 2

Scenario: A property owner applies for a conditional use permit to operate a marijuana dispensary in a residential area. The city's zoning regulations do not specifically address marijuana dispensaries, but allow for conditional use permits for certain types of home-based businesses.

The city's planning commission holds a public hearing on the application, and receives significant opposition from residents who are concerned about the potential impact of a marijuana dispensary on the community. Some argue that it will attract crime and negatively impact property values, while others argue that it could have positive economic benefits for the area.

After the hearing, the planning commission votes to deny the permit, citing concerns about the potential negative impact on the community.



Scenario # 3

Scenario: A municipality is considering annexing an unincorporated area that is adjacent to its boundaries. The area is largely rural, with a mix of agricultural and residential properties. The municipality is interested in annexing the area in order to expand its tax base and provide additional services to the area.

However, there is significant opposition to the annexation among some property owners in the area. They argue that the annexation will result in higher property taxes, loss of local control, and changes to the character of the community. Some also express concerns about the impact of the annexation on the area's water resources and agricultural heritage.



