

Resolution amending various sections of Article V, Code of Ethics of Chapter 2, Administration of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas.

WHEREAS, the City's Code of Ethics requires the Ethics Commission to review the City's Code of Ethics annually and to make recommendations to City Council for any necessary changes;

WHEREAS, the Ethics Commission has the responsibility to review the City's Code of Ethics to update the Code with current laws or changes, and advise city council on any proposed changes, if any, to the City's Code of Ethics;

WHEREAS, the City of Corpus Christi Ethics Commission recommends certain changes to the Ethics Code as described below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI ETHICS COMMISSION:

SECTION 1. All recitals referenced below are recommended to city council to be adopted and incorporated into City Ordinance.

SECTION 2. Subsection 2-330(e) of Section 2-330, Complaints, of Article V, Code of Ethics of Chapter 2, Administration of the City Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (e) (1) The city attorney shall conduct a preliminary review of the complaint within seven (7) business days after receipt and issue ~~determination~~ **a recommendation to the Ethics Commission on** whether the complaint: (i) is sufficient as to form; and (ii) alleges sufficient facts which, if true, would constitute a prima facie violation of the rules of conduct. The city attorney shall provide the commission, the city secretary, the complainant and the respondent with written notice of such ~~determination~~ **recommendation**.

~~(2) The complaint is dismissed upon determination that the complaint failed to comply with subsections (e)(1)(i) or (ii) above, subject to complainant's right to appeal such dismissal to the commission within ten (10) business days of dismissal. This appeal must be in writing, sworn to in compliance with subsection (a) above, and state the grounds for the appeal. The complainant shall provide the appeal to the city secretary who will then forward a copy to the commission, the city attorney and the respondent within three (3) business days of receipt.~~

~~(3) The respondent shall have ten (10) business days to submit a written response to the commission after a preliminary determination of the city attorney that the complaint complies with subsections (e)(1)(i) and (ii) above, or after proper appeal is forwarded to the commission in compliance with subsection (e)(2).~~

~~(4) Within thirty (30) business days after commission's receipt of subsection (a) the determination of the city attorney that the complaint complies with subsections (e)(1)(i) and (ii) above or (b) an appeal by the complainant in compliance with subsection (e)(2), the commission shall determine whether to schedule a hearing or take other action concerning the complaint. Such determination shall be made during a meeting of the commission by majority vote of all commissioners present.~~

(2) The Ethics Commission shall hold a preliminary hearing on sufficiency of the complaint within thirty (30) business days after the Commission's receipt of the recommendation of the City Attorney.

(3) The Ethics Commission at a preliminary hearing shall determine if the complaint: (i) is sufficient as to form; and (ii) alleges sufficient facts which, if true, would constitute a prima facie violation of the rules of conduct. If the Ethics Commission determines the complaint is sufficient, then a hearing on the facts will be scheduled by the Ethics Commission within forty-five (45) business days, but not earlier than 10 business days to comply with Section 2-330(e) 4(a) below. If the Ethics Commission determines the complaint is insufficient, then the Ethics Commission shall dismiss the complaint.

(4) If the Ethics Commission schedules a hearing on the facts, then:

a. The City Secretary shall notify the Respondent in writing of the date of the hearing on the facts, and the Respondent will have 10 business days to file a written response to the complaint; and

b. The Respondent may hire an attorney to assist him/her in responding to the ethics complaint. If the Respondent hires an attorney and is found to not have violated the Rules of Ethics, then the City will reimburse the Respondent an amount of up to \$5,000 for the reasonable expenses of the Respondent's Attorney in defending against the complaint.

(5) The complainant shall have one (1) opportunity within ten (10) business days of any denial of their original complaint by the commission to amend their complaint and refile the same with the commission.

PASSED and APPROVED on the _____ day of May 2026.

Kimberly Ballenger, Chair
Corpus Christi Ethics Commission