



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

1st Reading item for City Council Meeting of August 13, 2024
2nd Reading item for City Council Meeting of August 20, 2024

DATE: July 25, 2024
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
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Briefing on Requested Changes to the Ethics Code

CAPTION

Ordinance amending Section 2-330 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas to provide for outside representation of City Officials for alleged violations before the Ethics Commission.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

A Council member recently was the subject of a non-sustained allegation at the City Ethics Commission. The member utilized an attorney, at their own expense, to defend themselves against the allegation. They indicated a desire for the City pay for the defense of City Officials who are the subjects of non-sustained allegations at the Ethics Commission. Several members of City Council have identified with their concerns and requested such coverage.

The City currently indemnifies officers and employees for their cost of defending against "claims or damages arising out of the course and scope of employment" as long as they were "were done in good faith and without malicious or felonious intent". See Corpus Christi City Code § 39-14(b). Such indemnity does not apply to ethics allegations because they are merely advisory in nature, without monetary sanction. City provision of indemnity for internal ethics allegations would require a change to the City Code. Some cities provide for reimbursement of defense costs against ethics allegations and therefore provide a roadmap to potential indemnity procedures.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

PowerPoint – Ordinance Amending Corpus Christi City Code 2-330