

**Ordinance amending Sections 2-312, 2-326, 2-340, 2-342, and 2-349 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas to update definitions and language for clarity, duties of the Ethics Commission, disclosure of interests for contractors, and eliminate the use of short form annual reports.**

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 2-312 of the City Code is amended to add the following definition for "City Official":

"City Official: The mayor; members of the city council; municipal court judges and magistrates; city manager; deputy city manager; assistant city managers; assistants to the city manager; city secretary; deputy city secretary; assistant to the city secretary; municipal court clerk, deputy court clerks; all department heads and assistant department heads; internal auditor and all assistant internal auditors; assistant to mayor; executive secretaries; and members of all boards, commissions (except the youth commission whose members are minors), committees, and other bodies created by the city council pursuant to federal or state law or city ordinance, including entities that may be advisory only in nature, who are appointed by the mayor, the city council, or who are designated in the by-laws or organization papers of the entity to serve on behalf of the city; and board members of any entity who are appointed by the mayor city council to such board membership. This list is updated and posted to the City's website annually by the city manager."

**SECTION 2.** Subsection 2-326(a)(2) of Section 2-326 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

"Subsection. 2-326(a)(2): Prepare and publish pamphlets electronic information online and other materials explaining the duties of individuals subject to the Code of Ethics. Such materials shall include instructions to the public about how to obtain information such as financial disclosures, campaign reports, and the like from the city."

**SECTION 3.** Subsection 2-326(a)(3) of Section 2-326 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

"Subsection 2-326(a)(3): Review all financial disclosure reports which are filed with the city pursuant to this article. If the commission identifies a possible conflict of interest or needs further disclosure from its review of the financial disclosure report, the commission shall notify the filing official to request additional information regarding the possible conflict of interest. The Ethics Commission will provide a definitive deadline, not to exceed 60 days from the date of request, for the filing official to respond."

**SECTION 4.** Subsection 2-326(a)(6) of Section 2-326 of the City Code is repealed as follows:

~~“2-326(a)(6) Prepare and disseminate a report listing all campaign contributions and expenditures for each candidate within thirty (30) days following the deadline for filing the last campaign finance reports for each city council elections. For the purposes of this provision, a general election and run-off election shall be considered as a single city council election.”~~

**SECTION 5.** Section 2-340 of Section 2-340 of the City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2-340: On or before the last Friday of March of each year, reporting officials shall file with the City Secretary an annual report of financial information covering January 1 through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. Council members and Planning Commission members shall also file with the city secretary a supplemental report of financial information by the last Friday of each year covering the most recent January 1 through June 30. ~~Those reporting officials who have no changes to report since their most recent complete report may, in lieu of filing a complete report, file a short form annual report stating no changes, provided they have filed a complete financial disclosure form within the previous five (5) years.~~ Each reporting official shall utilize a form provided by the city secretary, which shall be signed and submitted in hard copy, or submitted electronically, as may be provided for by the city.”

**SECTION 6.** Subsection 2-342(k) of Section 2-342 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

“Section 2-342(k): The names and addresses of ~~all~~ any persons from whom the reporting official received gifts or favors, including but not limited to trips, excursions, food, lodging, money, commodities or services, cumulatively exceeding \$200.00 in value. The nature and date of each gift received shall be specified. Provided, however, campaign contributions reported as required by state law and gifts or favors from relatives need not be reported hereunder.”

**SECTION 7.** Subsection 2-349(b) of Section 2-349 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

“Subsection 2-349(b): In the case of any business desiring to sell goods or services to the city (except when the value of the goods or services is not reasonably anticipated to exceed \$100.00 per calendar year) but which does not require city council, board, commission or committee consideration or action, the business shall file with the city’s purchasing agent a statement specifically naming any city employee, official and board member having any ownership ~~into best~~ interest in the business constituting 3% or more of the ownership, or having any pecuniary interest in the transaction. This provision does not apply to or include the purchase of magazine subscriptions and memberships in professional or trade organizations related to municipal operations.”

**SECTION 8.** Subsection 2-349(d) of Section 2-349 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

“Subsection 2-349(d): If a person who requests official action on a matter knows

that the requested action will confer an economic benefit on any city official or employee that is distinguishable from the effect that the action will have on members of the public in general or a substantial segment thereof, he or she shall disclose that fact in a signed writing to the city official, employee or body that has been requested to act in the matter., ~~unless the interest of the city official or employee in the matter is apparent.~~ The disclosure shall also be made in a signed writing filed with the city secretary.”

**SECTION 9.** All provisions of the ordinances of the City of Corpus Christi in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and all other provisions of the ordinances of the City of Corpus Christi not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 10.** Should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part or provision thereof other than the part so decided to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, and shall not affect the validity of the Code of Ordinances as a whole.

**SECTION 11.** This ordinance shall become effective upon final approval by the City Council, signature by the Mayor and publication of the caption of the ordinance in accordance with the law.

Introduced and voted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

PASSED and APPROVED on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paulette Guajardo, Mayor

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Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary