



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of July 19, 2016

DATE: June 30, 2016
TO: Margie C. Rose, City Manager
FROM: Ethics Commission

Ethics Commission Ethics Code Recommendations

OUTSIDE PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1. Dr. Haysam Dawod	Chair	Ethics Commission

BACKGROUND:

The Ethics Commission has completed its review of the Ethics Code and is recommending the following changes:

Remove Section 2-311(4) which currently allows Council, but prohibits employees and board members, from using the prestige of their position with the City on behalf of any political party or cause.

Amend Section 2-311 (8) (A) which currently prohibits City officials, employees, and board members from taking action on a matter before them that benefits any of their “relatives”. The term “relatives” is currently defined as spouse, parents, children, siblings, spouses of children, spouses of siblings. The proposed amendment would expand the “circle of influence” to also grandparent, grandchildren, clients, members of households, outside employer of spouse or member of household, entities in which any of the relatives listed has an economic interest or entity in which the City official serves in policy making position.

Add new Section 2-311(8)(B) to prohibit any City employee/official or their family member or friend from profiting from privileged information discussed in confidential city meetings.

Add new Section 2-311(8)(E) to prohibit a city official from using their position to influence a contract or business transaction before the City involving an individual or organization who contributed \$2,700 or more to the official’s most recent election campaign.

Adds new Section 2-311 (16) to prohibit use of confidential information other than for performing official duties. Also Adds new Section 2-311 (17) to prohibit disclosure of confidential information relating to city affairs. Confidential information is any information not available to the public under the Texas Public Information Act and also any information from a closed session meeting.

Amends Section 2-311 (21) by adding new subsection (E) to prohibit participation in appointments if the person contributed \$2,700 or more to most recent election campaign.

Amends Section 2-316 by adding new subsection (D) to prohibit person from registering as a lobbyist within 2 years of City service.

Amends Section 2-316 (a) (3) to codify Ethics Commission current practice in reviewing annual financial disclosure statement, to request additional information regarding possible conflict of interest.

Amends Section 2-330 to expand "Rules of Conduct" for which an ethics complaint may be filed, to expand to include a violation of the Preamble to the Code of Ethics.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

PowerPoint – Code of Ethics Presentation July 19, 2016
Draft Ordinance