

**APPROVED Minutes Economic Development Reform Panel
June 11, 2021, 1pm- 2:30 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order: Chair Ann Marie Tracey
Panelist in attendance: Tim Burke, Alicia Bond-Lewis, Bobbi Dillon, Guy Guckenberger, KZ Smith and Bernadette Watson

- II. Approval of 5.27.21 and 6.4.21 minutes
Alicia Bond-Lewis moved to approve
Bernadette Watson second the motion

- III. Updates
 - A. City Council approved \$150,000 for the purpose of providing funds for an audit of City Council ordinances that passed related to economic development deals between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2020.
 - B. Landsman's motion failed

- IV. Discussion: Ethics Practices to Consider (See the attached summary of panel recommendations)
 - A. Code of Conduct
 - i. Code of Conduct for both legislators and Employees
 - ii. Make specific recommendations in regard to Cincinnati e.g. the involvement of anyone in the development process and in the quasi-judicial processes and be reminded that they should not interfere with those processes.
 - iii. Address gifts/contributions to Council Members, under Ohio Ethics Code. [Specifically, in addition to current reporting requirements >\\$75.](#)
 - iv. Cover interactions with constituents e.g. limits on contacts with development community to prevent Council involvement in contract negotiations without restricting first amendment rights and/or developers from updating Council offices regarding upcoming projects
 - v. Prohibitive or aspirational or both? [Panel to review samples as provided by Paul Nick linked here.](#)
 - vi. Reporting code of conduct violation and/or establishing a specific point of contact to field and then investigate those claims
 - vii. Code of Conduct for City Employees see Admin reg 68 (attached). If Staff receive specific training on conduct, consideration for legislators and their staff to also complete the training
 - viii. Code of Conduct for those involved in the development process (developers or just staff involved)
 - ix. Solicitor's office to review current codes of conduct and determine deficiencies/gaps according to panel's charge
 - x. Trainings: bring attention to current opportunities, or recommend that the administration create a more concise code of conduct, develop/offer/require trainings for legislators, legislative and city staff, and requirements/mechanism for employees/public to report on code of conduct violations

1. Clarification from solicitor's office is needed re: City HR Policy/Procedure of employee conduct and process for reporting is deficit
 2. Recognition of current policies governing staff with a recommendation of compiling into one code based on existing PPs – leave to City Manager
 3. Move recommendations re: city employees to the end of the list. limit to legislators, their staff, and developers vs staff
- xi. City Manager Memo regarding reforms (attach 1.26.21 charter memo)
 - xii. Developer Code? E.g. mechanism/requirements of developers to report inappropriate conduct by legislators or staff (and report to whom? City Solicitor's Office or US. Attorney?
 1. List of requirements, expected behavior of developers, could be included in document for developers – if they receive an inappropriate contact from a council member, required reporting
 2. Required training?
 - xiii. Recommend City Council's Rules adopt for itself
 1. combine summary of recommendation on Council actions/behavior and use those specific dos and don'ts as a basis for a code of conduct (principals, best practices)
- B. Gifts/contributions – bullet. Current laws re: gifts, OEC however, recommendation could be requirements to report/notify solicitors office of any gift, blanket decline, reporting requirements is available for the panel – specific to the development project
- i. Elected officials should sign a pledge
 - ii. Could recommend expand role/responsibilities of IA hotline (citizens complaint/IA) use existed hotline as expanded
- V. Planning and Other Business
- A. Reserve citicable for all remaining Fridays at 1pm from now till August 2, 2021
 - B. EDRP goal to tentatively have a set of recommendations before the public hearing July 9th (Public Comment)

Meeting adjourned 2:47pm

The Next Meeting is Friday June 18, 2021, at 1pm