

**Agenda Economic Development Reform Panel
March 26, 2021 1-2:30 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order: Chair Ann Marie Tracey
Panelist in attendance: Tim Burke, Bobbi Dillon, Guy Guckenberger, Alicia Bond-Lewis, Dan Schimberg, Bernadette Watson, KZ Smith and Verna Williams
- II. Approval of 3.12.21 minutes
Bobbi Dillon Motioned to Approve, Verna Williams Seconded the Motion. Motion approved.
- III. Ohio Ethics Law with Paul Nick, Executive Director, Ohio Ethics Commission (OEC) (Bio included in meeting packet materials)
 - Chapter 102 of the Ohio Revised Code governs Ohio ethics laws for public officials and outlines the duties of the OEC “The Ohio Ethics Commission promotes ethics in public service to strengthen the public's confidence that Government business is conducted with impartiality and integrity.” Ohio Ethics Law (Included in meeting packet). The OEC supervises the Ohio General Assembly, the Executive branch of government, and all public employees with respect to Ohio’s ethics laws.

The OEC has four service areas:

1. Advise/Guidance:
Providing both formal opinions and informal staff opinions.
Formal opinions to inquiries provide statutory immunity.
2. Education/Trainings
3. Processing of Annual Financial Disclosures
4. Investigations:
OEC reviews/investigates potential violation of Ch. 102; if appropriate it then refers for misdemeanor or felony prosecution.

ORC 102.03, D-F (copy included in meeting packet) addresses areas of concern for the panel, specifically, the solicitation, giving, or receipt of items of value that “manifests a substantial and improper influence” on the performance of the public employee’s or official’s duties.

- IV. Mr. Nick and panel members discussed Best Practices (Codes of Conducts and Memos regarding other Cities/States included in meeting packet)
 - Primarily topics discussed: The different financial disclosures required of public employees, lobbyist, and entities doing business with a city or state; and the various best practices across the country for reporting and creating an ethical culture.
 - Basic Facts: Ohio law requires public employees to disclose gifts and income annually, like a tax return. In Ohio, Lobbyists have quarterly requirements; however, in other states like California, lobbyists are required to report

contributions immediately and there is a public registry with real time reporting capabilities. In Philadelphia, those doing business with the City are required to disclosure contributions over a certain amount.

- Regarding, creating an ethical culture: Paul recommends required and regular training of public employees, lobbyists, and business entities, in addition to whistleblower hotlines. Mr. Nick recommended that the EDRP refer to page 5 of the materials re: Chicago's Code of Conduct.

V. Planning and Other Business

- The April 9 meeting will be a public hearing. Panel Discussion will follow if there is additional time. The Public Comment Registration page for the hearing is complete. Those who wish to participate in the public hearing will register, and then they will receive an email with the Zoom Link. Kelly Carr will keep track of registrants, and those who wish to speak will be in a "waiting room" and admitted into the hearing when it is their turn to speak. Each speaker will have two minutes; the panel may decide to ask follow up questions of the speaker. EDRP members are encouraged to share link with their respective networks or forward contacts to Kelly Carr, in the City Manager's Office for notice. Notice will be sent out via the City's current social media and "Engage Cincy" network.

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 2:48pm

The Next Meeting, a public hearing, is April 9, 2021 at 1pm EST.