

# **CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

This code of conduct contains principles that shall guide the conduct of City Council and all Council staff, with the express purpose of fostering the highest standards of governance, cooperation, and respect for the City Charter, the laws of the City of Cincinnati, and City Council. Within forty-five days of becoming a member of City Council, whether by election or appointment, every member of City Council shall sign a commitment to follow the Cincinnati City Council's Code of Conduct set forth in this document. Within forty-five days of being hired as a staff member for a member of City Council, every staff member shall sign a commitment to follow the Cincinnati City Council's Code of Conduct set forth in this document. The Clerk of Council shall administer this requirement and provide a copy of the commitment to each member of Council and their staff members.

Pursuant to Section 101-45 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code, Council is charged with enforcement of this Code by public censure of violations, which requires a vote of majority of the members of Council, excluding the member of Council subject to possible censure. Upon approval by a majority of council, the censure shall be filed with the Clerk of Council.

All members of Council and their staff shall:

- 1) Recognize the charter role of the Mayor, Council, and City Manager, particularly in contracting, development projects, and incentives;
- 2) Recognize the obligation of elected officials and staff to not attempt to privately interfere with quasi-judicial proceedings of boards and commissions or the zoning hearing examiner;
- 3) Cultivate a culture of reporting of conflicts of interest and unethical conduct and a commitment to avoid retaliating against those who report suspected conflicts or unethical conduct;
- 4) Commit to understanding and following the applicable ethics and conflict of interest laws (See Ohio Revised Code Chapter 102 and Section 2921.42);
- 5) Commit to attend training at least annually on Ohio ethics laws and other state and local laws pertinent to the role of the Council;
- 6) Commit to never use city resources or personnel for political activity;

- 7) Support the integrity of the City's development processes and promote public trust by directing inquiries from developers related to financial assistance or land use approvals to the City Manager's Office so that they can be handled uniformly through transparent City administrative processes;**
- 8) Set City funding and appropriation priorities in an open, transparent, and public manner;**
- 9) Not use City resources or personnel to disclose confidential information obtained through the performance of City work for private gain or publicity or as prohibited by Ohio Revised Code section 102.03(B);**
- 10) Adhere to all applicable laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.**
- 11) Report, without undue delay, to the City Manager, City Solicitor, Ohio Ethics Commission, or other appropriate authority, conduct in the performance of official duties that is reasonably believed to violate the law or reasonably believed to violate this code of conduct.**