



Code of Ethics

The purpose of the City of Mercer Island Code of Ethics is to strengthen the quality of government through ethical principles which shall govern the conduct of members of the City Council, the City's boards and commissions, Council-appointed task groups and committees, and the City Manager ("officials") who shall:

Be dedicated to the concepts of effective and democratic local government.

***Democratic Leadership:** Officials shall honor and respect the principles and spirit of representative democracy and set a positive example of good citizenship by scrupulously observing the letter and spirit of laws, rules and regulations.*

Affirm the dignity and worth of the services rendered by government and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.

Be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships.

***Public Confidence:** Officials shall conduct themselves to maintain public confidence in city government and in the performance of the public trust.*

***Impression of Influence:** Officials shall conduct their official and personal affairs in such a manner as to give the clear impression that they cannot be improperly influenced in the performance of their official duties.*

Recognize that the chief function of local government always is to serve the best interests of all the people.

***Public Interest:** Officials shall treat their position or office as a public trust, only using the power and resources of public office to advance public interests, and not to attain personal benefit or pursue any other private interest incompatible with the public good.*

Keep the community informed on municipal affairs; encourage communication between the citizens and all municipal officers; emphasize respectful and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.

***Accountability:** Officials shall assure that government is conducted openly, efficiently, equitably and honorably in a manner that permits the citizenry to make informed judgments and hold city Officials accountable.*

***Respectability:** Officials shall safeguard public confidence in the integrity of city government by being honest, fair, caring and respectful and by avoiding conduct creating the appearance of impropriety.*

Seek no favor; believe that personal benefit or profit secured by confidential information or by misuse of public time is dishonest.

Business Interests: Officials shall have no beneficial interest in any contract which may be made by, through or under his or her supervision, or for the benefit of his or her position or office, or accept directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward in connection with such contract unless allowed under State law.

Private Employment: Officials shall not engage in, solicit, negotiate for, or promise to accept private employment or render services for private interests or conduct a private business when such employment, service or business creates a conflict with or impairs the proper discharge of their official duties.

Confidential Information: Officials shall not disclose to others, or use to further their personal interest, confidential information acquired by them during their official duties.

Gifts: Officials shall not directly or indirectly solicit, accept, or receive any gift whether it be money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise, or any other form - under the following circumstances: (a) it could be reasonably inferred or expected that the gift was intended to influence the performance of official duties; or (b) the gift was intended to serve as a reward for any official action on the official's part.

Investments in Conflict with Official Duties: Officials shall not invest or hold any investment, directly or indirectly, in any financial business, commercial or other private transaction that creates a conflict with their official duties. Should a conflict arise, Officials shall take proactive steps to disclose all relevant information and refrain from participating in any city business or activity related to the conflict.

Personal Relationships: Officials shall disclose personal relationships in any instance where there could be the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Business Relationships: Officials shall not use city time, equipment, or facilities for marketing or soliciting for private business activities.

Conduct business of the City in a manner which is not only fair in fact, but also in appearance.

Not knowingly violate any Washington statutes, City ordinance, or regulation while performing their duties.

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