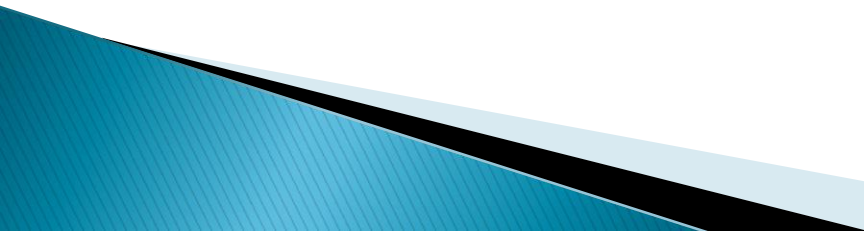


Code of Ethics

RMC Ch. 2.20

Julie Towler
Deputy City Attorney

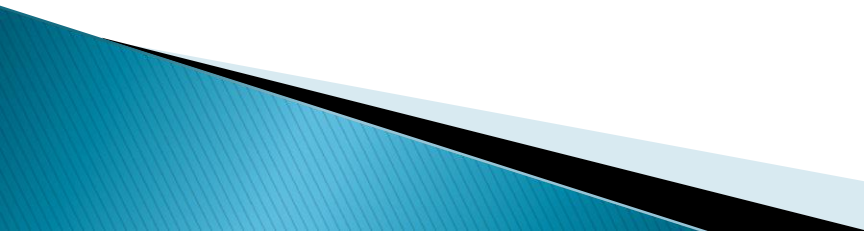
Intent of Code of Ethics

- ▶ Integrity, honesty, and fairness.
 - ▶ Private financial dealings of governmental representatives present no conflict of interest between public trust and private gain.
 - ▶ Public confidence in government at all levels.
 - ▶ RMC sec. 2.20.110
 - ▶ NRS Ch. 281A
- 

Application to (Board) Members

- ▶ Board Members are public appointees, defined:
 - Any person appointed by a public officer (Mayor and City Council Members) to serve on any board, agency or commission charged with the responsibility of advising, recommending or setting policy. RMC sec. 2.20.120.
- ▶ **RMC sec. on appointment.**

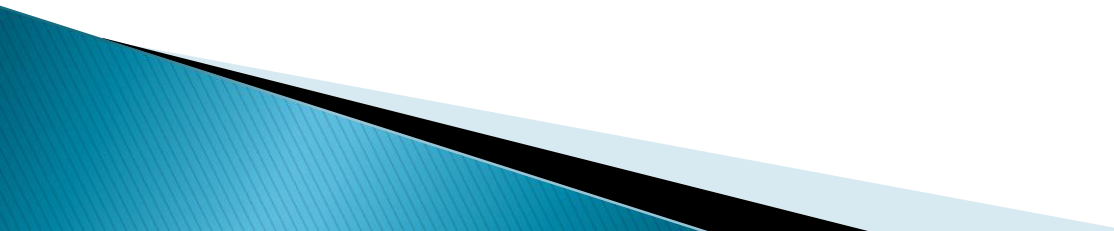
Standards

- ▶ General Requirements RMC sec. 2.20.130
 - ▶ (1) Cannot seek or accept gift (in excess of \$100, excludes family member gifts), service, favor, employment, engagement, emolument or economic opportunity that would improperly influence a reasonable person in his or her position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of public duties.
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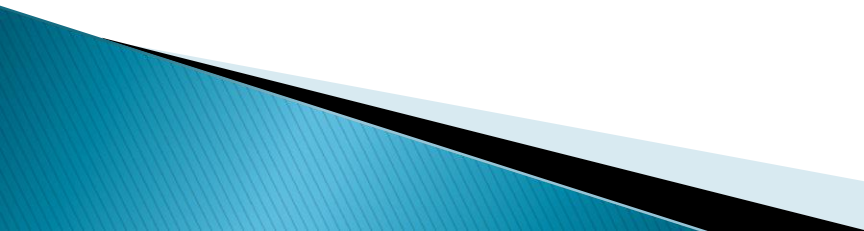
Standards

- ▶ (2) Not use position to secure or grant unwarranted privileges, preferences, exemptions or advantages for self, any family member, any business entity, or any other person.
- ▶ Family member defined in RMC sec. 2.20.120: parents, grandparents, great grandparents, children, grandchildren, great grand children, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, first cousins, spouses, and aunts and uncles.

Standards

- ▶ (3) Not participate as an agent of government in negotiation or execution of a contract between the City and any person or business entity that self has an interest.
 - ▶ (4) Not accept any salary, retainer, gift, augmentation, expense allowance or other compensation from any private source for the performance of public duties.
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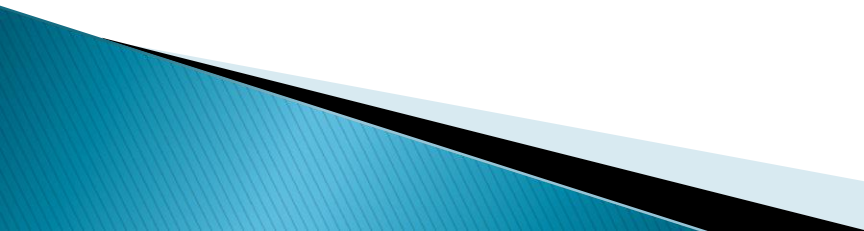
Standards

- ▶ (5) If acquire information which by law is not at the time available to people generally, and acquire information through public duties or relationships, cannot use the information to further your own interest or any other person or business entity.
 - ▶ (6) Cannot suppress any governmental report of other document because affects interests unfavorably.
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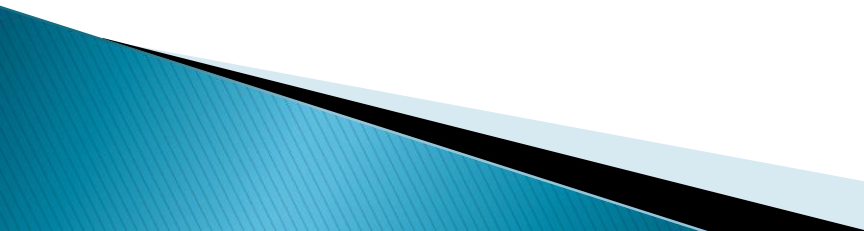
Standards

- ▶ (7) Cannot use governmental time, property, equipment or other facility for a nongovernmental purpose or to benefit interests. Exceptions: 1) Limited use of governmental property if 4 conditions are met: 2) information is available to members of general public or 3) no special charge (i.e. telephone).

Standards

- ▶ (8) Doesn't apply to public appointee
 - ▶ (9) Cannot seek other employment or contracts through the use of position.
 - ▶ (10) Cannot receive or acquire an interest in or an interest affected by a contract, transaction, land use decision or other matter at a time when you know the interest will be directly affected by an official act or City action.
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Standards

- ▶ RMC sec. 2.20.140
 - ▶ (a) May vote on a matter if benefit or detriment accruing to self as result of decision, either individually or in representative capacity as a member of a general business, profession, occupation or group, is not greater than that accruing to any other member of the general business, profession, occupation or group.
 - ▶ HOWEVER, there are exceptions to this rule.
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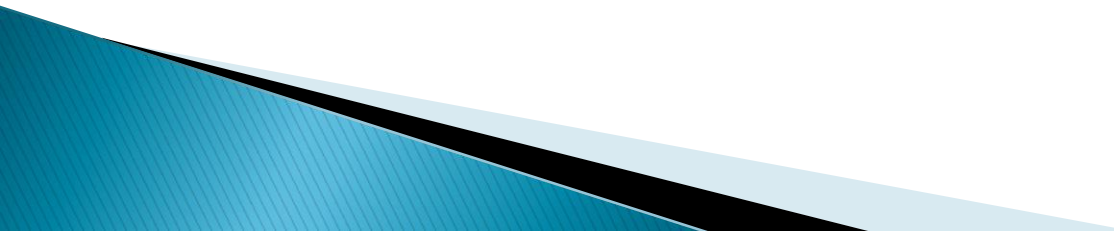
Standards

- ▶ Exceptions:
- ▶ Cannot approve, disapprove, vote, abstain from voting or otherwise act upon any matter:
 - (1) When you have accepted a gift or loan
 - (2) Reasonably affect by commitment in a private capacity to the interest of others; or
 - (3) When you have a pecuniary interest, without disclosing the full nature and extent of the gift, loan, commitment or interest. Disclosure must be made at time matter is considered.

Role of the City Attorney's Office

- ▶ Issue advisory formal opinions, may refer matter to state ethics commission, district attorney's office or outside counsel. RMC sec. 2.20.150.
- ▶ Opinions are binding, until amended or revoked, good faith action. RMC sec. 2.20.150.
- ▶ Enforcement of RMC Ch. 2.20 – investigate, initiate corrective action and recommend any appropriate action.

Role of the City Attorney's Office

- ▶ City Council may direct office to investigate, prosecute, through office, any apparent violation of chapter, or Council may employ or appoint any qualified attorney to investigate or prosecute violation.
 - ▶ Complaint may be filed by any person who believes there to be a violation, filed with the office.
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Violation and Penalty

- ▶ RMC sec. 2.20.170(h)
 - Any public appointee who willfully and knowingly violates this chapter shall be subject to immediate removal by his or her appointing public officer.

Questions

- ▶ Any questions?
 - ▶ Email: towlerj@reno.gov
 - ▶ Direct phone: 334-2066
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