

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ETHICS
AD HOC COMMITTEE
JANUARY 24, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Haroldo Williams; Michelle Coppola; Miklos Koleszar; Antoinette Williams

STAFF: Mario Coppola, Corporate Counsel; Matt Sapienza, Corporate Counsel

ROLL CALL

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. and called the roll.

ANNOUNCEMENT: PURPOSE OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE, AND OF THIS MEETING

Mr. Williams stated that the purpose of the Ad-Hoc and of this meeting is to review the Code of Ethics and identify changes that are needed. Any changes that are identified will be brought before the Board of Ethics for approval before being referred to the Common Council.

PUBLIC PARITICIPATION

No member of the public came forward to comment.

NO OLD BUSINESS – FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

No Old Business was brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS – REVIEW THE “CITY OF NORWALK CODE OF ETHICS”

Mr. Williams stated that Section 32-4 should be changed. Currently, in the event that an officer or an employee of the City has a known conflict, he or she is directed to notify the Town Clerk. Mr. Williams stated that in the event that an officer or employee of the City has a known conflict, he or she should disclose it in writing to their supervisor, and the supervisor should file the written disclosure statement with the City Clerk. Ms. Coppola and Mr. Koleszar agreed that this change should be made.

Mr. Williams recommended that the Board add a section to specify the limit and extent of nepotism that will be acceptable in Norwalk.

Mr. Williams stated that a change be made to Section 32-8. He stated that the maximum dollar amount for gifts directly or indirectly solicited by an officer or employee should be increased from \$50 to \$100. He also stated that a time period over which the \$100 limit should apply to should be specified. Ms. Coppola stated that gifts received should include any gift baskets sent to offices and any gifts received at charity events.

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to make changes to Section 32-9 (D). He stated that he would like to reword the section to read “Whistle blower protection. It shall be a violation of the Code of Ethics for

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any officer, employee, or agency to threaten or retaliate or take any actions against an individual, including areas of employment, career advancement opportunities, benefits or contracting, as result of that individual making an ethics complaint or providing truthful information as part of any investigation of or hearing on an ethics complaint.

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to change Section 32-10 to read "An officer or employee shall not solicit employment with any person or company who has a substantial matter pending before the agency for which the officer serves or by whom the employee is employed. A matter is "substantial" if it involves a financial value of \$1,000 or more or involves a question of significant public policy for the City."

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to make changes to Section 32-12. He stated that he would like to see the number of members increased from 5 with two alternates to a total of 7 members. Discussion followed on considerations that would have to be kept in mind regarding party representation and alternate members.

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to add to the mission of the Board. An additional section would read "Promotes a public culture and operating environment of high ethical standard throughout the City of Norwalk, by educating, informing, and encouraging City officials, employees, residents and vendors of the City of Norwalk to become aware of the Norwalk Code of Ethics and to ensure that their public actions and activities are in compliance with the Norwalk Code of Ethics and high ethical standards."

Mr. Williams stated that he would prepare a document outlining the changes that were discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KOLESZAR MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services

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