

Footnotes:

--- (5) ---

**Cross reference**— Code of ethics, § 1-6-101 et seq.; city lobbying, § 1-7-101 et seq.

Sec. 1-9-101. - Title.

This division shall be known and referred to as the "Irvine City Council Ethical Public Service Ordinance."

(Ord. No. 08-03, § 1, 6-3-08)

Sec. 1-9-102. - Purpose.

This division is adopted to ensure that the Mayor and members of the City Council, as elected representatives, and their Executive Assistants and appointed Commissioners, are engaged in public service not for private, personal gain, but to advance the interests of Irvine residents and the entire Irvine community.

(Ord. No. 08-03, § 2, 6-3-08)

Sec. 1-9-103. - City allegiance and proper conduct.

A. *Incompatible employment or service.* Because of their uniquely important, visible, and elevated status and responsibilities as elected officials, the Mayor and members of the City Council, and by extension their Executive Assistants and their appointed Commissioners, shall not engage in compensated employment or service for the purpose of lobbying for any private person or organization before any local public agency (county, city or special district) located in the County of Orange.

1. Paragraph A shall not be applicable to lobbying as an in-house employee on behalf of his or her employer (as opposed to a client of the employer).
2. For purposes of paragraph A, "lobbying" shall mean any oral or written communication (including an electronic communication) to an official of a local agency other than the City, made directly or indirectly, in an effort to influence or persuade the official to favor or oppose, recommend or not recommend, vote for or against, or take or refrain from taking action on any public policy issue of a discretionary nature pending before the official's agency, including, but not limited to, proposed action, or proposals for action, in the form of

ordinances, resolutions, motions, recommendations, reports, regulations, policies, nominations, appointments, sanctions, and bids, including the adoption of specifications, awards, grants, or contracts.

- B. *Interest in City contracts.* The Mayor and members of the City Council, and by extension their Executive Assistants and their appointed Commissioners, shall not have a personal investment or monetary interest in any contract made by the City, except contracts relating to the performance of their official City duties.
- C. *Knowledge of and agreement to abide by provisions.* The Mayor and members of the City Council and their Executive Assistants and appointed Commissioners shall at the time of their election or appointment or upon the effective date of this section, whichever occurs earlier, sign an appropriate form prepared by the City Clerk reciting their knowledge of the provisions of this section and their agreement to abide by such provisions.

(Ord. No. 08-03, § 3, 6-3-08)

Sec. 1-9-104. - Enforcement of City allegiance and proper conduct provisions.

- A. The provisions of Section 1-9-103 above express standards of ethical conduct expected for City officials and employees. As an expression of such standards, the provisions of Section 1-9-103 are intended to be self-enforcing for the most part. City officials and employees themselves have the primary responsibility to assure that ethical standards are understood and met, and that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of government. It will be most effective when City officials and employees are thoroughly familiar with the expressed standards and embrace them.
- B. A violation of the provisions of Section 1-9-103 above shall not be considered and shall not constitute a basis for challenging the validity of any decision by the City Council or any other body or agency of the City.
- C. All suspected violations of Section 1-9-103 above that also pertain to provisions of the Political Reform Act (California Government Code § 81000 et seq.) should be reported to the Fair Political Practices Commission of the State of California.
- D. All suspected violations of Section 1-9-103 above that may independently constitute criminal offenses, including those outside of the purview of the Fair Political Practices Commission, should be reported to the Office of the Orange County District Attorney.
- E. Except as otherwise expressly provided by State law, the following shall constitute the exclusive means and procedures of enforcing the provisions of Section 1-9-103 above:
  - 1. Alleged violations of Section 1-9-103 committed by the Mayor, a member of the City Council or a member of a City commission should be reported in writing to the City Attorney. Upon receipt of the report, the City Attorney shall discuss the matter with the person who is the

subject of the allegation, advising such person of the alleged violation and endeavoring to avoid future violations in the event one has occurred.

2. Alleged violations of Section 1-9-103 committed by a City Council Executive Assistant should be reported in writing to the City Manager or his/her designee. Upon receipt of the report, the City Manager, or his/her designee, shall commence an investigation to determine whether the alleged violation is substantiated. The City Manager, or his/her designee, shall discuss the matter with the person who is the subject of the allegation, advising such person of the alleged violation. In the event the City Manager, or his/her designee, determines that a violation has occurred, the City Manager or the appointing authority may take appropriate action in accordance with applicable City rules, regulations, and procedures related to employment and/or discipline.
3. In the event that the City Attorney or City Manager (or his or her designee) determines that a violation of this division has occurred, appropriate documentation should be prepared to memorialize the determination.

(Ord. No. 08-03, § 4, 6-3-08)