

# MAYOR OF CINCINNATI

## CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Pursuant to Section 100-13 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.

The Mayor and Mayoral 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 ORC 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 Mayor;
- 6) Commit to never use city resources or personnel for political activity;
- 7) Recognize the limitations on the Mayor's ability to negotiate economic development deals without the involvement and approval of the city manager;
- 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.

Enforcement of the code of conduct required by this chapter shall be by censure, approved by a majority vote of councilmembers. Upon approval by a majority of council, the censure shall be filed with the clerk of council.