
CITY OF CUPERTINO ETHICS PROTOCOL

The citizens, businesses and organizations of the City are entitled fair, ethical and accountable local government that has earned the public's full confidence for integrity.

To this end, the City Council has adopted this Ethics Protocol for City Council, appointed officials, and staff of the City of Cupertino to promote public confidence in the integrity of local government and its effective and fair operation.

A. Comply with Law

City elected/appointed officials and staff comply with the laws of the nation, the State of California and the City in the performance of their public duties. These laws include, but are not limited to: the United States and California constitutions, the Cupertino Municipal Code, City ordinances and policies, and laws pertaining to conflicts of interest, election campaigns, financial disclosures, employer responsibilities and open processes of governments. The City ensures its elected/appointed officials and staff receive regular training on ethics as required by state law.

B. Conduct of Members

The professional and personal conduct of City elected/appointed officials and staff should be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. City elected/appointed officials and staff should refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of others, including members of the Council, boards and commissions, the staff, or the public.

C. Respect for Process

City elected/appointed officials and staff perform their duties in accordance with the processes and rules of order established by the City Council governing the deliberation of public policy issues, meaningful involvement of the public, and implementation of policy decisions of the City Council by City staff.

D. Decisions Based on Merit

City elected/appointed officials and staff base their decisions on the merits and substance of the matter at hand, rather than on unrelated considerations.

E. Conflict of Interest

In order to assure their independence and impartiality on behalf of the common good, City elected/appointed officials and staff do not use their official positions to participate in or influence decisions in which they have a material financial interest, an organizational responsibility, or a personal relationship, which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

F. Gifts and Favors

City elected/appointed officials and staff limit and report gifts as required by state law, and follow advice provided by the City Attorney.

G. Confidential Information

City elected/appointed officials and staff respect the confidentiality of information concerning the property, personnel, and affairs of the City. They neither disclose confidential information without proper legal authorization, nor use such information to advance their personal, financial or other private interests.

H. Use of Public Resources

City elected/appointed officials and staff do not use public resources, such as City staff time, equipment, supplies or facilities, for private gain or personal/political purposes.

I. Representing the City & Advocacy

When formally authorized to represent and/or advocate for the official policies or positions of the City, elected/appointed officials and staff must do so accurately and in a limited fashion that does not go beyond the scope of their authority. By contrast, when City elected/appointed officials and staff are presenting their individual opinions and positions on issues potentially relevant to the City, they must explicitly state they do not represent their body or the City and must not allow any inference that they do.

J. Positive Work Place Environment

City elected/appointed officials and staff support the maintenance of a positive and constructive work place environment for City employees and for citizens and businesses dealing with the City. City elected/appointed officials recognize their special role in dealings with City staff, taking care not to create any perception of inappropriate direction to staff.