

ORDINANCE NO. C-24-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ENACTING A NEW SUBSECTION X-XX OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, THEREBY ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE CITY COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Commission to adopt a code of conduct to set standards and expectations of its members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That within Division XX of Chapter XX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a new section X-XX is created and shall read as follows:

Sec. X-XX. City Commission Code of Conduct.

The City Commission and Mayor upon appointment or election, shall submit a signed statement to be provided by the City clerk acknowledging that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by the City Commission Code of Conduct. If any City Commissioner or the Mayor violates the following Code of Conduct, they will be subject to censure or reprimand, by a four-fifths vote of the City Commission. In furtherance of the public trust assumed by public officers of the City upon their election or appointment to public office, the City Commission and Mayor shall commit to the following code of conduct:

- (a) I shall demonstrate dignity, respect, and courtesy toward those with whom I am in contact in my capacity as a member of the City Commission and will refrain from intimidation and ridicule of fellow City Commissioners, the City manager, City attorney, staff, and citizens of the City.
- (b) I will refrain from using inappropriate language including statements that are malicious, threatening, slanderous, disparaging, mean-spirited, vulgar or abusive. All disagreements, concerns or criticisms shall be framed in language that is in keeping with the dignity and professionalism of an elected official.
- (c) I shall be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships and shall conduct myself in a manner which maintains and promotes public confidence in City government.

- (d) I pledge to use my best efforts to keep the community informed on the affairs of City government, emphasize and practice friendly and courteous service to the public, and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.
- (e) I pledge to be honest, fair, and respectful to others in performing my duties and agree to refrain from and avoid conduct creating an appearance of impropriety or which is otherwise unbecoming a public officer, including but not limited to making false accusations or personal attacks against another public officer, or behaving in a rancorous or contentious manner.
- (f) I shall not use the provisions of this Code of Conduct to further frivolous claims against one of my colleagues. Frivolous claims shall be those forwarded with knowledge that the claim contains one or more false allegations or those made with reckless disregard as to whether the complaint or claim contains false allegations of fact material to a violation of this Code of Conduct.
- (g) I shall not knowingly violate any federal, state, or local law, rule or regulation.

SECTION 2. At the direction of the City Attorney, the publisher of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is authorized to conform chapter, article, section, subsection, and clause numbers and letters, and capitalization, set forth in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and to correct any non-substantive scrivener’s errors in the codification of this Ordinance without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 3. That if any clause, section or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this _____ day of _____, 2024.

PASSED SECOND READING this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN