

ORDINANCE NO. C-24-42

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ENACTING A NEW SUBSECTION 2-220 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, THEREBY ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, SEVERABILITY, REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Commission to adopt a code of conduct to set standards and expectations of members of City Boards, ~~and Committees,~~ task forces and the like;

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

SECTION 1. That Section 2-220 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is hereby created to provide as follows:

Sec. 2-220. - City Boards and Committees Code of Conduct.

Any person appointed to serve as a member of a City board or committee, which for purposes of this section shall also include task forces and the like, shall commit to the following code of conduct by written affirmation, which shall remain on file with the City clerk. The City Commission, through the adoption of a resolution by majority vote, may remove for cause any ~~board or committee~~ member who violates the following code of conduct, except when inconsistent with City Charter, general or special law. This authority of the City Commission to remove ~~City board and committee~~ members for cause shall be cumulative with any other legislation governing City boards, ~~and committees,~~ task forces and the like. The City board and committee Code of Conduct shall provide as follows:

- (a) In my capacity as an appointed ~~board or committee~~ member, I will refrain from 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 appointed ~~board or committee~~ member and the honor of my respective City board or committee.

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- (b) I will refrain from using profanity, intimidation, making disparaging remarks, or using ad hominem attacks towards other appointed ~~board or committee~~ members, City Commissioners, the City Manager, the City Attorney, City Staff and citizens, in any setting, including, but not limited to public meetings and on social media.
- (c) I will demonstrate dignity, respect, and courtesy toward those whom I am in contact with in my capacity as an appointed ~~board or committee~~ member. I will refrain from being abusive, confrontational, disrespectful, intimidating and ridiculing to my fellow ~~board or committee~~ members, City Commissioners, the City Manager, the City Attorney, City staff, and citizens.
- (d) I understand that an appointed ~~board or committee~~ member does not manage the affairs of the City. I will not intrude into daily operations or spheres of responsibility designated by Florida Statutes, City Code, and City Charter to the City manager as the chief executive officer; or undermine the City manager's lawful authority. Further, I understand that the City manager is responsible for administering the policy direction established by a majority vote of the City Commission and not the individual wishes of ~~board or committee~~ members.
- (e) I will focus on solving problems and will maintain appropriate decorum and professional demeanor in the conduct of City business and work cooperatively and conscientiously with others as I request or receive information, examine data or weigh alternatives in the decision-making process.
- (f) I will devote adequate time for preparation prior to my respective City board or committee meetings and as much as possible, I will be in attendance at such meetings and all other scheduled events where my participation is required.
- (g) I will respect diversity and encourage the open expression of divergent ideas and opinions from fellow ~~board or committee~~ members, City Commissioners, City manager, City attorney, staff and citizens.
- (h) As an appointed ~~board or committee~~ member, I will always hold the best interests of the citizens of the City and the public health, safety and welfare of the community in the highest regard.

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- (i) All members of boards or committees which sit in a quasi-judicial capacity and have final decision-making authority, shall remain impartial on matters which may come before their board or committee and avoid the appearance of impropriety on all matters which come before their board or committee. Members shall avoid creating the appearance of impropriety by refraining from engaging in public and private discussions about specific agenda items, specific applicants or parties to a proceeding before their board or committee, or items which may come before their board or committee. ~~Members should further refrain from participating in any proceeding in which their impartiality may be reasonably questioned. A member whose personal, employment, or business relationship with a person or entity that is the subject of a matter which may come before the board or committee should disclose such relationship. The provisions of F.S. Ch. 112, the code of ethics for public officers and employees, shall govern conflict of interest situations and determinations.~~
- (j) Members should further refrain from participating in any proceeding in which their impartiality may be reasonably questioned. A member whose personal, employment, or business relationship with a person or entity that is the subject of a matter which may come before the board or committee should disclose such relationship. The provisions of F.S. Ch. 112, the code of ethics for public officers and employees, shall govern conflict of interest situations and determinations.
- (~~h~~k) I will represent the interests of the entire City when making decisions and will rely upon available facts and my independent judgment. In my capacity as an appointed ~~board or committee~~ member, I will avoid conflicts of interest and avoid using my official position for personal, professional, or partisan gain.
- (~~k~~l) I will abide by all laws of the state applicable to my conduct as an appointed ~~board or committee~~ member, including, but not limited to, the Government in the Sunshine Law, the Florida Code of Ethics for Public Officers, and City rules of procedure and codes of conduct.

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

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

SECTION 5. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this 3rd day of September, 2024.

PASSED SECOND READING this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

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