

Introduced July 27, 1993, by Council
Members Schedler, Williams, Singletary, and
Van Sandt

Item No. 93-07-1683

ORDINANCE NO. 2526

An ordinance amending Article VII. Code of Ethics of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that Article VII. Code of Ethics of Chapter 2 Administration of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell is hereby rescinded and reenacted as follows:

"ARTICLE VII. CODE OF ETHICS

Sec. 2-101. Declaration of policy.

The proper operation of the municipal government requires that officers, officials and employees of the city be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that decisions and policy be made in the best interest of the people, the community and the government; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government.

Sec. 2-102. Scope of the code.

This code shall apply to all officers, officials and employees of the city, whether elected or appointed, whether paid or unpaid, and the code applies to the members of any board, committee or commission of the city. The judge of the Slidell City Court is expressly excluded from the provisions of this article.

Sec. 2-103. Ethics board.

(a) There is hereby created an ethics board to consist of nine (9) members. The membership of the ethics board shall consist of nine (9) electors who shall be domiciled in and residents of the City of Slidell. The city attorney shall be the legal advisor of the ethics board.

(b) The members of the ethics board shall be appointed by the city council. Terms of office shall be three (3) years, except that when the initial appointments are made, three (3) members shall be appointed for one year, three (3) for two (2) years and three (3) for three (3) years.

(c) The ethics board shall elect its own chairman and vice-chairman and shall develop written rules of procedure as directed by the Council and said rules shall be submitted to the city council for approval.

(d) The ethics board may make recommendations with respect to amendments to this code of ethics article.

Sec. 2-104. Prohibition of appointment of spouse.

No spouse of a public officer or employee shall accept or serve on any board, commission or committee of the city. This section shall not be applied to appointments made prior to January 1, 1979.

7 **Sec. 2-105. Advisory opinions.**
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9 When anyone covered by this Ethics Code request an advisory opinion, it shall be
10 received by the Ethics Board Chairperson or Vice Chairperson if the Chairperson is not
11 available, and forwarded to the City Attorney. The City Attorney shall draft and forward
12 the reply to the Ethics Board for approval and following such approval, the advisory
13 opinion shall be mailed to the person requesting it. The request and the advisory opinion
14 shall be and remain private and confidential, unless the person requesting the advisory
15 opinion decides that it be made public. If approved by the Ethics Board, the advisory
16 opinion shall be final and binding on the Ethics Board and the City of Slidell until
17 amended or revoked.
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19 **Sec. 2-106. Disclosure of certain financial interest.**
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21 The following persons shall file an initial statement of economic interests within a
22 time period specified by the ethics board. Each person required to file such statements
23 shall file updated statements no later than April thirtieth of each year. Each person
24 required to file such statements shall be notified, in writing, of said requirement no later
25 than April first of each year by the clerk of council. All newly hired, appointed, and elected
26 persons affected by this section shall be required to file an initial statement of economic
27 interests within thirty (30) days of assuming their office. Any person delinquent after thirty
28 (30) days shall be turned over to the City Attorney to compel compliance.
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30 The following persons are:

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32 (a) All elected officials;
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34 (b) City Attorney;
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36 (c) Director of Finance;
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38 (d) Chief of Staff;
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40 (e) Council Administrator/Clerk of the Council;
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42 (f) City Engineer;
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44 (g) Director of Planning;
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46 (h) Director of Permits;
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48 (i) Purchasing Agent;
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50 (j) Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustments;
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52 (k) Members of the Slidell Planning and Zoning Commission;
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54 (l) Members of the Ethics Board;
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56 (m) Director of Recreation;
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58 (n) Director of Cultural Affairs;
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60 (o) Director of Airport;
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- (p) Community Development Administrator; and
- (q) All other Department Heads not herein stated.

Sec. 2-107. Form of financial statement.

The person filing any statement of economic interests under this article shall file the statement on a form prescribed by the ethics board and shall supply the following information to the board:

- (a) The name and address of the person, spouse and minor children, and all names they use in business or any professional practice;
- (b) The name of all corporations and other business interests in which the person, spouse or minor children hold any office or directorship, or own or control, directly or indirectly, more than five (5) per cent of the outstanding stock or more than five (5) per cent of other business ownership;
- (c) The names of the employers of the person and spouse, and a brief statement of the nature of the employment;
- (d) A description of all parcels of real estate within the parish in which the person, spouse or minor children own any interest, including an option to purchase;
- (e) Any business or occupational license, including number, issued by the city to the person, spouse or minor children;
- (f) Information pertaining to possible conflict of interest or possible influence over sensitive data of the city; and
- (g) Information pertaining to general knowledge of ethical practices of the Code of Ethics of the City of Slidell.

Sec. 2-108. Penalties; exemptions; injunction.

(a) Any public officer or employee who willfully and knowingly violates any of the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days, or both, unless otherwise provided by state law.

(b) The ethics board, with the consent of the city council, may exempt from the provisions of this article any conduct found to constitute a violation by a public officer or employee, if it finds that the enforcement of this article with respect to such conduct is not necessary in the public interest.

Sec. 2-109. Distribution of code of ethics.

A copy of this code of ethics is to be distributed to every public officer and employee of the city within thirty (30) days after enactment of this code. Each public officer and employee elected, appointed or engaged thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his office or employment.

