

## HOME RULE CHARTER

### ARTICLE VII – GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 7.01 – Conflicts of Interest-Board of Ethics.** The use of public office for private gain is prohibited. The City Commission shall implement this prohibition by ordinance. Regulations to this end shall include but not be limited to: acting in an official capacity on matters in which the official has a private financial interest clearly separate from that of the general public; the acceptance of gifts and other things of value; acting in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official, the use of confidential information; and appearances by city officials before other city agencies on behalf of private interests. The appearance of impropriety shall be avoided. Municipal officials shall be, at a minimum, restricted from conflict of interest to the same extent that state public officials are bound by state law; provided however, that the City Commission may adopt an ordinance setting a stricter standard.

#### **Section 7.02 – Prohibitions.**

1. Activities Prohibited.
  - a. No person shall be appointed to or removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with respect to any city position or appointive city administrative office because of race, gender, age, handicap, religion, country of origin, or political affiliation.
  - b. No person shall willfully make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating, or report in regard to any test, certification, or appointment under the provisions of this Charter or the rules and regulations made thereunder, or in any manner commit or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of such provisions, rules and regulations.
  - c. No person who seeks appointment or promotion with respect to any city position or appointive city administrative office shall directly or indirectly give, render, or pay any money, service, or other valuable thing to any person for or in connection with any test, appointment, proposed appointment or proposed promotion.
  - d. No person shall knowingly or willfully solicit or assist in soliciting any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political party or political purpose to be used in conjunction with any city election from any city employee.
2. Penalties. Any violation of this section shall be sufficient cause for the suspension, demotion, or termination of the employment of any City employee found to be in violation of this section. The City Commission shall establish by ordinance such further penalties, as it may deem appropriate.