

**ARTICLE 9
ETHICS**

Section C-9.0. Ethical standards.**Section C-9.1. Dedicated service.****Section C-9.2. Fair and equal treatment.****Section C-9.3. Interest in appointments.****Section C-9.4. Use of City property.****Section C-9.5. Prohibited interests and private employment.****Section C-9.6. Confidential information.****Section C-9.7. Use of official position.****Section C-9.8. Debarment.****Section C-9.9. Penalties.****Section C-9.0. Ethical standards.**

The proper operation of the City requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people; that governmental decisions and policy be made in the proper channels of the government structure; that public offices not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. In recognition of these goals, this article applies to all officials and employees, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid. The purpose of this article is to establish ethical standards of conduct for all such officials and employees by setting forth those facts or actions that are incompatible with the best interest of the City and by directing disclosure by such officials and employees of private, financial or other interests in matters affecting the City.

Section C-9.1. Dedicated service.

Officials and employees shall adhere to the rules of work and performance established as the standard for their positions by the appropriate authority. Officials and employees shall not exceed their authority or breach the law, and they shall work in full cooperation with other public officials and employees.

Section C-9.2. Fair and equal treatment.

No person in the service of the City or seeking admission thereto shall be appointed, promoted, reduced, or in any way favored or discriminated against because of sex, race, national origin, political or religious opinions, or affiliations.

Section C-9.3. Interest in appointments.

No person shall, either directly or indirectly, pay, render, or give any money, service, or other valuable thing to any person for, or on account of, any test, appointment, promotion, or removal for which he or she may be considered.

Section C-9.4. Use of City property.

No official or employee shall request or permit the use of City-owned vehicles, equipment, materials, or property for personal convenience or profit, except when such services are available to the public generally, or are provided as part of a City policy for the use of such official or employee in the conduct of official business.

Section C-9.5. Prohibited interests and private employment.

- (1) No official or employee shall engage in any business or transaction, or shall have a financial or other personal interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties, or which would impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties.
- (2) No official or employee shall engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties.
- (3) No official or employee, whose salary is paid in whole or in part by the City, shall appear on behalf of private interests before any agency of the City. A Council member shall not appear in a representative capacity before any administrative agency or board of the City exercising judicial or qualified judicial functions.

Section C-9.6. Confidential information.

No official or employee shall, without proper legal authorization, disclose confidential information concerning the City, nor shall such information be used to advance the individual's financial or other private interest.

Section C-9.7. Use of official position.

No official or employee shall use his or her office or position of employment, directly or indirectly, orally, by letter, or otherwise, to solicit, compel or induce, the payment of any political assessment, subscription, or contribution to any political party or for any political purpose. The right of City employees to form, join and participate in, or refrain from forming, joining, or participating in any employee organization of their own choosing is hereby recognized.

Section C-9.8. Debarment.

- (1) No former Council member or Mayor shall hold any other appointed City office or City employment until one (1) year after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected or from the date of resignation from office.
- (2) No official or employee shall, after the termination of service or employment, appear before any board or agency of the City in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he or she personally participated during the period of service or employment or which was under his or her active consideration.

Section C-9.9. Penalties.

Violation of any provisions of this article may constitute cause for suspension, removal from office or employment, or other disciplinary action as the Common Council may provide. In addition, any officer or employee may request an advisory opinion from the Fulton County Board of Ethics pursuant to § 808 of the General Municipal Law.