CODE OF ETHICS

COUNTY OF

SCHUYLER

RESOLUTION NO. 253
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 9, 1985
UPDATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

CODE OF ETHICS
COUNTY OF SCHUYLER
STATE OF NEW YORK

SECTION I
Intent of the Legislature

Pursuant to the provisions of section eight hundred six of the General Municipal Law, the Legislators recognize that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of government.

In the light of a tendency today on the part of some people to downgrade our local governments and to discredit our public employees and institutions generally, it appears necessary that every effort be made to assure the highest caliber of public administration of this county as part of our state's important system of local government. It is the intent of this resolution to promulgate these rules of ethical conduct for the officers and employees of the County of Schuyler.

These rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of the officers and employees of the County of Schuyler. The rules of ethical conduct of this resolution, as adopted, shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to any prohibition of article eighteen of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law relating to ethical conduct and interest in contracts of county officers and employees.

It is the purpose of this Code of Ethics to implement the above stated objectives through establishment of standards of conduct, to provide the punishment of violations of such standards and to enforce adherence to the standards provided herein.

SECTION II
Definitions

1. COUNTY shall mean any board, commission, district, council or other agency, department or unit of the government of the County of Schuyler.

2. COUNTY EMPLOYEE shall mean any officer or employee of the County of Schuyler, whether paid or unpaid, whether serving in a full-time, part-time or advisory capacity.

SECTION III
Conflict of Interest

1. No county employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity or incur any obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of duties in the public interest

2. To the extent that is known thereof, a member of the Legislature and any officer or employee of the County of Schuyler, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in the discussion or gives official opinion to the Legislature on any legislation before the Legislature, shall publicly disclose on the official record the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest existing in such legislation.

3. Each county employee shall abstain from making personal investments in any financial, business, commercial or other private transaction in which there is reason to believe that such investment may be directly involved in decisions to be made which will otherwise create substantial conflict between duty in the public

interest and private interest.

4. No employee of Schuyler County shall engage in, solicit, negotiate for or promise to accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service creates a conflict with or impairs the proper discharge of official duties.

SECTION IV
Standards of Conduct

Every employee of the County of Schuyler shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

1. No county employee shall directly or indirectly solicit any gift, or accept or receive any gift having a value of **seventy-five** dollars or more, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence, or could reasonably be expected to influence, in the performance of official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action.

2. No county employee shall accept other employment, which will impair his independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties.

3. No county employee shall accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity that will require disclosure of confidential information gained by reason of official position or authority.

4. No county employee shall use or attempt to use an official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions personally or for others.

5. A county employee shall not by personal conduct give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence or unduly enjoy favor in the performance of official duties, or that the employee is affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or position.

6. Each county employee shall endeavor to pursue a course of conduct that will not raise reasonable suspicion among the public that the employee is likely to be engaged in acts that are in violation of trust.

7. No county employee, employed on a full-time basis, nor any firm or association of which such employee is a member, nor corporation of which a substantial portion of the stock is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such employee, shall sell goods or services to any person, firm, corporation or association which is licensed or whose rates are fixed by the county is which such employee serves or is employed.

SECTION V
Representation before Agencies or Courts

1. One's Own Agency

No county employee shall receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services rendered in relation to any matter before any agency of which such employee is an officer, member or employee or before any agency over which jurisdiction exists or to which the employee has the power to appoint any member, officer or employee.

2. Before Any Agency for a Contingent Fee

No county employee shall receive or enter into any agreement,

express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any county agency whereby compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by such agency with respect to such matter, provided that this paragraph shall not prohibit the fixing at any time of fees based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered.

3. Courts

No employee shall represent private interest in any action or proceeding against the interest of the county, in any litigation to which the county is a party. If said employee is a lawyer, that employee should not engage in activities in which personal or professional interests are, or foreseeably may be, in conflict with official duties.

SECTION VI
Enforcement and Penalty

In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, any person who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this code may be fined, suspended or removed from office or employment, as the case may be, in the manner provided by law.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Code of Ethics shall be the responsibility of the Legislature of Schuyler County. The deliberations of the Legislature on matters of ethics shall be confidential and in no event shall the identity of the county employee be disclosed except to authorized persons and agencies. Decisions of the Legislature in regard to questions of ethics shall be subject to the opinion of the County Attorney.

SECTION VII
Personal Action

Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former county employee of any claim, account, demand or suit against the County of Schuyler, or any agency thereof, on behalf of said employee or the employee's family arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

SECTION VIII
Administration of Code of Ethics

Upon the adoption of this Code of Ethics, the Clerk of the Schuyler County Legislature shall cause a copy thereof to be distributed to every employee of this county. Failure to distribute any such copy or failure of any county employee to receive such copy shall have no effect on the duty of compliance with this code, nor the enforcement of provisions hereof. The Clerk of the Legislature shall further cause a copy of this Code of Ethics to be kept posted conspicuously in each public building under the jurisdiction of the county. Failure to so post this Code of Ethics shall have no effect on the duty of compliance herewith, nor the enforcement provisions hereof.

SECTION IX
Severability Clause

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Code of Ethics shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section and part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

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SECTION X
Effective Date

This Code of Ethics shall take effect immediately upon approval of the Legislature of the County of Schuyler and replaces the Code of Ethics adopted by Resolution No. 183 of 1970 of the Board of Supervisors of Schuyler County.