
Sec. 2-26. Prohibited campaign contributions.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

Candidate shall have the meaning set forth in F.S. § 97.021, as may be amended from time to time.

Contribution shall have the meaning set forth in F.S. § 106.011, as may be amended from time to time.

Controlling financial interest shall mean the ownership, directly or indirectly, of ten percent or more of the outstanding capital stock in any corporation or a direct or indirect interest of ten percent or more in a firm.

Development agreement shall have the meaning set forth in F.S. Ch. 163, as may be amended from time to time. The term "development agreement" shall include any amendment, extensions, modifications or clarifications thereto.

Firm shall mean a corporation, partnership, business trust or any legal entity other than a natural person.

Lobbyist shall mean an individual who is registered with the City in accordance with the City's lobbyist registration system, as set forth in section 2-233 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

Real estate developer shall mean an individual or entity who has a pending application for a development agreement or approval with the City or who is currently negotiating with the City for a development agreement or approval, including individuals or entities who have a present or pending application with the City for a change of the City's zoning map designation or a change to the City's future land use plan. This term shall include an individual or entity that holds a controlling financial interest in a real estate developer entity.

Vendor shall mean a person or entity that is currently supplying any goods or services to the City, that has supplied any goods or services to the City within the current or prior two calendar years, or that has, by submitting a response to a currently open competitive solicitation, expressed an interest in supplying any goods or services to the City. The term "vendor" shall not include those individuals or entities that provide goods and services to the City not exceeding \$20,000.00 in a fiscal year wherein City Commission action is not required to approve an award of a contract.

(b) *Contributions prohibited.*

(1) No lobbyist, real estate developer or vendor shall give a campaign contribution, directly or indirectly, to a candidate for the office of Mayor or Commissioner.

(2) No candidate for Mayor or Commissioner, or member of the City Commission shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or deposit into such candidate's campaign account any campaign contribution from a lobbyist, real estate developer or vendor. Candidates, or those acting on a candidate's behalf, including incumbent members of the City Commission, shall ensure compliance with this section by confirming with the City Clerk's office the status of any potential donor.

(c) *Contracts and Procurement.* Commencing on the effective date of this ordinance, all City contracts, requests for proposals, requests for qualifications, or any other competitive solicitation issued by the City shall incorporate the provisions of this section to notify lobbyists, real estate developers, and vendors of the limitations and restrictions set forth herein.

(d) *Penalties.* All contributions deposited by a candidate into a campaign account in violation of this section shall be forfeited to the City's general revenue fund. Violations of this section may be further subject to the penalty provisions set forth in section 1-8 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 23-18, § 2, 9-12-23)