



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Subject: Approval of Ordinance Amending Ethics Code to Create Ethics Officer – Legislative

Submitted By: Michael Williams

Date Submitted: September 14, 2021

Work Session Date: September 20, 2021

Council Meeting Date: September 20, 2021

Background/History:

The City Council last amended the Ethics Ordinance in April 2020. At the time, new Ethics Board members were named. Since then, although two ethics charges have been made, the City staff has been unable to get a quorum of the Ethics Board to meet, either for training/organization or to process the two pending charges.

It is proposed that the Ethics Board be replaced with an independent Ethics Officer who would have the same authority of the Ethics Board to receive complaints, investigate them, conduct hearings and make recommendations to the City Council for further action. The Ethics Officer could only be removed for cause, further shielding the individual from any bias.

If approved, the City staff would initiate a procurement to identify a lawyer or law firm to present to the City Council to serve as the Ethics Officer.

Cost: \$ variable

Budgeted for: _____ **Yes** **No**

Financial Impact:

It is envisioned that the City will retain the services of an individual attorney or law firm who would charge an hourly rate.

Action Requested from Council:

It is requested that the city approve the ordinance.