

# Code of Ethics Revisions

## (3rd Reading & Adoption)

AB 5643 | December 10, 2019



# Code of Ethics Revisions

## Changes from 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:

- Removed definition of RELATIVE
- Clarified "Conflicts of Interest" section [2.60.030(A)]
  - Added "the official's spouse"
  - Retained "employee"
- Added section to address Councilmembers appointments to boards and commissions and committees [2.60.080(D)(7)]



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## Changes from 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:

- Added stand-alone section for Mayor and Deputy Mayor appointments removal [2.60.080(D)(8)]
- Revised "Protection Against Retaliation" section [2.60.080(F)]
- Added that the City will reimburse reasonable legal fees by the official if the complaint is dismissed [2.60.080(G)]



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## Changes from 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:

- Added that complaints may only be brought against sitting/current officials (2.60.090)
- Added the if the official leaves office before complaint is resolved, no further action will be taken (2.60.090)
- City Manager references were removed from Resolution No. 1572 and the Code of Ethics Statement



# Code of Ethics Revisions

## Council Direction Needed:

- **Section 2.60.080 Complaints, investigations, hearings and enforcement.**

G. Recovery of Fees or Costs. No attorney's fees or other costs related to matters covered by this chapter incurred by any official or complainant shall be recoverable from the City, except as follows: City will reimburse reasonable legal fees incurred by the official, up to \$\_\_\_\_\_, relating to or arising out of the defense of an ethics complaint that results in a dismissal of the complaint by the city council without penalties subsequent to a hearing by the hearing examiner.



# City Council Action

Adopt Ordinance No. 19C-20 to amend chapter 2.60 of the Mercer Island City Code revising the Code of Ethics and pass Resolution No. 1572 revising the Code of Ethics Statement.

