

# City of Watertown Ethics Committee

# Chapter 65

A. Public officials and employees are agents of public purpose and hold office for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State and to carry out impartially the laws of the nation, state and municipality and thus to foster respect of all government. They are bound to observe in their official acts the highest standards of morality and to discharge faithfully the duties of their office regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest must be their primary concern.

B. There are certain provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes which should, while not set forth herein, be considered an integral part of any code of ethics. Accordingly, the provisions of the following sections of the Wisconsin Statutes are made a part of this Code of Ethics and shall apply to public officials and employees whenever applicable:

- (1) Section 946.10, Bribery of public officers and employees.
- (2) Section 946.11, Special privileges from public utilities.
- (3) Section 946.12, Misconduct in public office.
- (4) Section 946.13, Private interest in public contract prohibited

# Definitions

ANYTHING OF VALUE: Any money or property, favor, service, payment, advance, forbearance, loan or promise of future employment, but does not include compensation and expenses paid by the state, fees, honorariums and expenses which are permitted and reported under § 19.56, Wis. Stats., and political contributions which are reported under Ch. 11, Wis. Stats.

FINANCIAL INTEREST: Any interest which shall yield directly or indirectly a monetary or other material benefit to the officer or employee or to any person employing or retaining the services of the officer or employee.

PERSON: Any person, corporation, partnership or joint venture.

# Sources of Rules

Watertown Ordinance § 65-4 Fair and equal treatment.

Watertown Ordinance § 65-5 Conflict of interest.

Watertown Employee Handbook Article VII. Personal Conduct

Watertown Policy Manual

Subchapter III, Chapter 19 of Wisconsin Statutes

# Responsibility 65-7

Recommend changes to City Policy, Rules, or Ordinances regarding behavior.

Provide advisory opinions.

Investigate complaints.

Make recommendations as to suspension, removal from office or employment, or other disciplinary action.

Assess fines for violation of Ethics Code.

Grant limited immunity for Officials following your advice.

Supersede District Attorney and formal charges.

# Tools

Closed Session Meetings

Quasi-Judicial Hearings

Subpoena Witnesses

Roberts Rules of Order

Initial Investigation

Review of Complaints

Memos

Decisions