THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

Opportunity runs through it.

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 16, 2026

To: Ethics Board

From: Ali Panagopoulos, City Attorney

RE: Elected/Appointed Officials Code of Conduct for the City of Watertown

Mayor Stocks previously directed the City Attorney's Office to draft an Elected/Appointed Officials Code of Conduct for the City of Watertown. In preparing the draft, staff reviewed comparable documents adopted by other Wisconsin municipalities, including Madison and Green Bay. Copies of the City of Madison Code of Conduct and the City of Green Bay Code of Conduct for Elected Officials are included with this memo.

At its October 6, 2026 meeting, the Common Council reviewed the draft City of Watertown Elected/Appointed Officials Code of Conduct and referred it to the Watertown Ethics Board for further review and comment. Following that meeting, staff made preliminary revisions to both the draft Code of Conduct and to Chapter 65 of the Watertown Municipal Code.

The Common Council requested that the Ethics Board address the following questions:

1. Does the Ethics Board have the authority to enforce the provisions set forth in the draft Code of Conduct? If yes, how? If no, who should enforce the Code of Conduct?
2. Which sections should remain in the draft Code of Conduct and are there additional sections that should be included?
3. What penalties or sanctions, if any, should apply in the event of a violation of the Code of Conduct?
4. Will any existing City ordinances need to be amended in order to enforce the Code of Conduct?