

**RESOLUTION OF HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE
HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires local governing Councils to adopt a code of ethics, and

WHEREAS, governmental decisions and policy must be made and implemented through proper channels and processes of the governmental structure.

NOW THEREFORE, as public officials representing the citizens of the local municipality of the City of High Point, and acting pursuant to the requirements of Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes, we the High Point City Council do hereby adopt the following General Principles and Code of Ethics to guide the City Council in its lawful decision-making.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE CODE OF ETHICS

- Council Members encourage all candidates to be of the highest personal and professional character. Elected Officials of the City of High Point should be in good standing with all personal and professional obligations.

- Council members shall obey all laws applicable to their official actions as members of the Council. Council members should be guided by the spirit as well as the letter of the law in whatever they do.

- Council members should act with integrity and independence from improper influence as they exercise the duties of their offices. Characteristics and behaviors consistent with this standard include the following:
 - Adhering firmly to a code of sound values;
 - Behaving consistently and with respect toward everyone with whom they interact;
 - Exhibiting trustworthiness;
 - Living as if they are on duty as elected officials regardless of where they are or what they are doing;
 - Using their best independent judgment to pursue the common good as they see it, presenting their opinions to all in a reasonable, forthright, consistent manner;
 - Remaining incorruptible, self-governing, and unaffected by improper influence while at the same time being able to consider the opinions and ideas of others;
 - Disclosing contacts and information about issues that they receive outside of public meetings and refraining from seeking or receiving information about quasi-judicial matters outside of the quasi-judicial proceedings themselves;
 - Treating other council members and the public with respect and honoring the opinions of others even when the council members disagree with those opinions;
 - Not reaching conclusions on issues until all sides have been heard;
 - Showing respect for their offices and not behaving in ways that reflect badly on those offices;
 - Recognizing that they are part of a larger group and acting accordingly; and

- Recognizing that individual council members are not generally allowed to act on behalf of the council but may only do so if the council specifically authorizes it, and that the council must take official action as a body.
- Council members should avoid impropriety in the exercise of their official duties. Their official actions should be above reproach. Although opinions may vary about what behavior is inappropriate, this council will consider impropriety in terms of whether a reasonable person who is aware of all of the relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the council member's action would conclude that the action was inappropriate.
- Council members should faithfully perform the duties of their offices. They should act as the especially responsible citizens whom others can trust and respect. They should set a good example for others in the community, keeping in mind that trust and respect must continually be earned.
- Council members shall conduct the affairs of the council in an open and public manner. They shall comply with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records. They should remember that local government records belong to the public and not to council members or their employees.
- Each Council member shall complete any and all ethics education program(s) as set forth in N.C.G.S. §160A-86 (current or as may be amended) and shall provide a record verifying receipt of the ethics education to the clerk.

CODE OF ETHICS

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for the High Point City Council and to help determine what conduct is appropriate in particular cases. It should not be considered a substitute for the law or for a Council member's best judgment. This ethics code may be amended from time to time as deemed necessary by the Council, or as necessitated by amendments to applicable law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of High Point, North Carolina adopts this General Principles and Code of Ethics to guide the City Council in its lawful decision-making.

Resolution to be effective upon adoption.

Adopted by the High Point City Council on the 10th day of June, 2010.

Attest:


 Lisa B. Vierling, MMC, City Clerk




 Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor