

# Considerations for Lago Vista Ethics Ordinance

## **References:**

Texas Municipal League ([http://www.tml.org/legal-topics/legal\\_ethics.html](http://www.tml.org/legal-topics/legal_ethics.html))

TML Handbook for Mayors and Council members (Chapters 8,9)

Seton Hall Law Review "Ethics in Government at the Local Level" ([http://www.tml.org/legal\\_pdf/2007ethics-localgovt.pdf](http://www.tml.org/legal_pdf/2007ethics-localgovt.pdf))

Concise example, Tulsa, OK (<http://www.cityoftulsa.org/ourcity/ordinances/ordinances/21084.pdf>)

Comprehensive example, Los Angeles, CA ([http://ethics.lacity.org/PDF/law\\_geo.pdf](http://ethics.lacity.org/PDF/law_geo.pdf))

## **Considerations:**

1) Should Section 3.2 and 5.1 match state code 171 (10% or \$15,000) and use state disclosure form are use more restrictive (1%) language in the current draft?

[http://www.tml.org/legal\\_pdf/Chap171-affidavit.pdf](http://www.tml.org/legal_pdf/Chap171-affidavit.pdf)

2) Should ethics ordinance include non-discrimination provision?

(City of Houston Sec 18-3.a.7)

Sec. 18-3. Standards of conduct. (a) No city official shall: (7) Engage in or promote ideas and/or actions that would demean and defame any particular ethnic group, racial minority group, special interest group and/or religious group.

3) How should section 3.6 b (Political Activity, last paragraph) handle whistleblower provisions?

4) Should Section 9.2 include complaints filed against ELECTED as well as APPOINTED members?

5) Should Article 11 include a means of putting the financial burden of lawsuits on the loser of the case?

6) Should those doing business with the city be required to disclose potential conflicts? (Seton Hall Law Review "Ethics in Government at the Local Level" IV.B)

7) Should ordinance include council agenda item for new council members regarding ethics policy (Seton Hall Law Review "Ethics in Government at the Local Level" VI)

*Submitted by Pat Dixon, Lago Vista city council place #4*