

NOT ADOPTED

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING) Ordinance No. 96-645
METRO CODE CHAPTER 2.16 CODE)
OF ETHICS) Introduced by
) Executive Officer Mike Burton
)

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

A new Chapter is hereby added to the Metro Code to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 2.16

CODE OF ETHICS

Sections:

2.16.010 Definitions
2.16.020 Trust
2.16.030 Objectivity
2.16.040 Accountability
2.16.050 Leadership

2.16.010 Definitions.

1. "Metro official" means any elected official, employee, appointee to a board or commission, or citizen volunteer authorized to act on behalf of Metro.
 2. "Ethics" means positive principles of conduct. Some ethical requirements are enforced by federal, state, or local law. Others rely on training, or on individuals' desire to do the right thing.
- The provisions of this chapter which are not elsewhere enforced by law shall be considered advisory only.

2.16.020 Trust.

The purpose of Metro is to serve the public. Metro officials treat their office as a public trust.

1. Metro's powers and resources are used for the benefit of the public rather than any official's personal benefit.
2. Metro officials ensure public respect by avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.
3. Policymakers place long-term benefit to the public as a whole above all other considerations, including important individuals and special interests. However, the public interest includes protecting the rights of under-represented minorities.
4. Administrators implement policies in good faith, as equitably and economically as possible, regardless of their personal views.
5. Whistle-blowing is appropriate on unlawful or improper actions.
6. Citizens have a fair and equal opportunity to express their views to Metro officials.
7. Metro officials do not give the appearance of impropriety or personal gain by accepting personal gifts.
8. Metro officials devote Metro resources, including paid time, working supplies, and capital assets, to benefit the public.
9. Political campaigns are not conducted on Metro time or property.

2.16.030 Objectivity.

Metro decisions are based on the merits of the issues. Judgment is independent and objective.

1. Metro officials avoid financial conflict of interest and do not accept benefits from people requesting to affect decisions.
2. If an individual official's financial or personal interests will be specifically affected by a decision, the official is to withdraw from participating in the decision.

3. Metro officials avoid bias or favoritism, and respect cultural differences as part of decision-making.

4. Intervention on behalf of constituents or friends is limited to assuring fairness of procedures, clarifying policies or improving service for citizens.

2.16.040 Accountability.

Open government allows citizens to make informed judgments and to hold officials accountable.

1. Metro officials exercise their authority with open meetings and public records.

2. Officials who delegate responsibilities also follow up to make sure the work is carried out efficiently and ethically.

3. Campaigns for election should allow the voters to make an informed choice on appropriate criteria.

4. Each Metro official is encouraged to improve Metro systems by identifying problems and proposing improvements.

5. Metro government systems are self-monitoring, with procedures in place to ensure appropriate actions.

2.16.050 Leadership.

Ethical leadership sets a good example and treats all citizens with respect.

1. Metro officials obey both the letter and the spirit of all laws and regulations.

2. Leadership facilitates, rather than blocks, open discussion.

3. All Metro departments and work teams are encouraged to develop detailed ethical standards, training, and enforcement.

4. The Metro Auditor will publish a pamphlet containing explanations and examples of ethical principles."

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this ____ day of _____, 1996.

Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

jep

revised:jas6.26.96