

Monte Sereno Code of Ethics

Adopted: 7/17/12

Re-affirmed: 2/4/14, 3/3/15, 5/3/16, 1/17/17, 1/16/18, 1/22/19, 1/21/20, 1/20/21

Preamble

The Monte Sereno City Council holds itself to the highest standard of ethical conduct. The following pledges are not intended to supersede or override any Federal, State, or local laws relating to elected officials. These pledges are intended to supplement those laws to hold the Council to a higher standard of conduct than may be required by law. It is incumbent on the City Council to ensure that all ethical standards are understood and met, thus providing our citizens with the full confidence of the integrity of our City government.

Public Interest

We, as City Councilmembers, recognize that our duty is to act in the public interest of the citizens of Monte Sereno. This means that any actions that we take as members of the Council will have no private or personal interests whatsoever. Also, in this regard, all members of the public must be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

Comply with the Law

We, as Councilmembers, shall comply with Federal, State and local laws. This applies to all laws including but not limited to laws regarding conflict of interest, election campaigns, financial disclosures, and open processes of government.

Conduct of Members

Members of the City Council shall act in a responsible manner, which includes being respectful of the opinions, character or motives of other Councilmembers, commissions, committees, staff, and the public.

Conflict of Interest

City Councilmembers should not use their official positions to influence government decisions where they have financial or personal interests, where such influence would present a conflict of interest under State or Federal laws. If such a conflict of interest should occur, the Councilmember shall file a written disclosure of their economic interest or personal interest and then refrain from participating in that decision.

Gifts and Favors

We, as City Councilmembers, shall not accept any gifts, favors, or promises of future benefits that are prohibited under Federal or State law.

Use of Public Resources

Public resources, except those already available to the general public, shall not be used by any City Councilmember for his/her own personal gain which includes but is not limited to, office supplies, campaign materials or the use of staff time.

Public Meetings and Decisions

City Councilmembers shall prepare for and participate in City Council meetings by reading materials provided by staff, respecting public discussion, and making decisions based on all relevant and disclosed facts.

Communications

City Councilmembers, during City Council meetings, shall disclose substantive information relevant to the issue under consideration which is the basis or part thereof for such City Councilmember’s decision. This will include any written or oral information from sources outside the public decision-making process including, but not limited to, private residents, lobbyists, developers or any other individuals or groups that have an influence on the City Council’s decision-making process.

Confidential Information

Confidential information should remain confidential under all circumstances. No Council member shall have the authority to waive the attorney client privilege while on the council or after his/her term expires.

Advocacy

It is the responsibility of City Councilmembers to ensure that personal opinions or positions are not confused for the official policies and positions that have been acted on by the Council to the extent they differ. When presenting their personal opinions or positions, City Councilmembers shall explicitly state that they do not represent the City Council or the City.

Private Interests after Office


While in office, City Councilmembers shall not appear on behalf of private interests of a third party before the Council or any commission, committee or proceeding of the City. Former City Councilmembers shall not appear as a representative, lobbyist, or employee on behalf of the private interests of a third party regarding any matter pending before the Council or any commission, committee or proceeding, for a period of two years after their term on the City Council. As a private citizen, past City Councilmembers may represent their own interests in issues that may affect their residence or neighborhood.

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Shawn Leuthold, Mayor

1/6/2021


Date

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Javed I. Ellahie, Mayor Pro Tempore

1/7/2021

Date

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Liz Lawler, Council Member

1/7/2021

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Rowena Turner, Council Member

1/7/2021

Date

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Bryan Mekechuk, Council Member

1/9/2021

Date