

**SUBJECT:**

**The Role of the Planning Commission  
as Citizens Representing the Community  
as a Whole**

**POLICY NUMBER 300-21  
ADOPTED 5-21-97  
Adopted incorrectly as 300-20**

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It is the policy of the City Council that the members of the Planning Commission have the knowledge and experience as citizens of Oceanside to represent the community as a whole in their decisions and recommendations. The professional planning staff and the expert members of other City departments, as assigned by the City Manager, provide the technical expertise, information framework and training necessary for the citizen members of the Commission to accomplish their tasks.

Further it is the policy of the City Council that the work of the Planning Commission is of such importance to the community that it must be conducted within the highest standards of ethical conduct.

It is therefore the City Council's policy that the following ethical standards be upheld by Planning Commission members:

- Members should advance the public interest and not work to attain personal benefit or pursue private interests that are incompatible with the public good.
- Members should safeguard their ability to make independent judgments by scrupulously avoiding financial, social and political relationships which might compromise or give the appearance of compromising their objectivity, independence or honesty.
- Members should observe the letter and spirit of laws and rules to ensure that government is conducted openly, efficiently, equitably and honorably and that they hold themselves as accountable.
- Members should exercise the power and prerogatives of office fairly and without prejudice or favoritism and not use public authority to reward relatives, friends, or supporters, or hinder or punish enemies or opponents.
- Members should not take any public actions unless they are certain that they can do so fairly and objectively.