

AGENDA NO. 4

CITY OF OCEANSIDE PLANNING COMMISSION

CODE OF ETHICS

In accordance with state law, City Council Policy 300-21, the American Planning Association's Ethical Principles in Planning, and our desire to conduct planning commission business with the highest standards of ethical conduct, we hereby adopt the following code of ethics:

The planning process must continuously pursue and faithfully serve the public interest. Therefore, as planning process participants, commissioners will:

1. Recognize the rights of citizens to participate in planning decisions;
2. Strive to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of disadvantaged groups and persons;
3. Assist in the clarification of community goals, objectives, and policies in plan making;
4. Strive to protect the integrity of the natural environment and the heritage of the built environment;
5. Pay special attention to the interrelatedness of decisions and the long-range consequences of present actions.

As planning process participants, commissioners will continuously strive to achieve high standards of integrity and proficiency so that public respect for the planning process will be maintained. Therefore, as planning process participants, commissioners will:

1. Exercise fair, honest and independent judgment in their roles as decision makers and advisors;
2. Make public disclosure of all personal interest regarding any decision to be made in the planning process in which commissioners serve, or are requested to serve;
3. Define "personal interest" broadly to include any actual or potential benefits or advantages that commissioners, a spouse, family member or person living in their household might directly or indirectly obtain from a planning decision;

4. Abstain completely from direct or indirect participation as a decision maker in any matter in which a commissioner has a personal interest, and seek the advice of agency counsel or the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) when unsure if personal interest exists and not participate in any decision if advised by agency counsel or the FPPC that such participation will violate any existing statute, rule or regulation.
5. Publicly disclose at the hearing on the matter any ex parte communications with applicants, other commissioners, members of the public or lobbyists and state the nature of such ex parte communications.
6. Maintain an open mind, base official decisions only on that evidence presented at the hearing on the matter and not rely on any evidence obtained outside the public hearing.
7. Seek no gifts or favors, nor offer any, under circumstances in which it might reasonably be inferred that the gifts or favors were intended or expected to influence a participant's objectivity as an advisor or decision maker in the planning process;
8. Not use confidential information acquired in the course of a commissioner's duties to further a personal interest;
9. Not misrepresent facts or distort information for the purpose of achieving a desired outcome;
10. Not participate in any matter unless adequately prepared and sufficiently capacitated to render thorough and diligent service.