



ETHICS CODE UPDATE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – September 20, 2022

City Staff Representatives:

Alicia R. Calderón, City Attorney



Why is an update needed?

- Article XXIX of the State Constitution's Interpretation of the home rule exemption by the Statewide Independent Ethics Commission (IEC)
- The City of Brighton has an Ethics Code, but it contains some exceptions to the gift ban that do not align with Article XXIX.
- The City of Brighton does not have a complaint and investigation process.
- The City of Brighton does not have an independent decision-maker.
- The penalty provision does not require repayment of twice the amount of the financial equivalent of any benefits obtained.



Reviewed in Previous Meetings

- Definition of a gift – what is and is not a gift.
- The process to review a complaint, investigation, and enforcement, including the appointment of an Independent Ethics Counsel every two years.
- The process for making a recommendation with findings of fact regarding whether a violation appears to have occurred and that City Council appoint an independent hearing officer to preside over the hearing.
- Hearing procedures.
- Sanctions.
- Request for an advisory opinion regarding any ethics question that can be relied upon if the person follows the advice in good faith.



Changes

- Appointment of the Independent Ethics Counsel by a two-thirds majority at a regular city council meeting.
- Appointment of the Independent Hearing Officer by a two-thirds majority at a regular city council meeting.



Options for City Council

Brighton City Council has the following options in this matter:

- ☐ Approve the Ordinance.
- ☐ Modify the Ordinance
- ☐ Deny approval of the Ordinance.