

RESOLUTION NO. 7473

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember Bill Haynes relating to the implementation of a Code of Ethics Policy for the City of Topeka, its elected officials and its employees.

WHEREAS, the public judges its government by the way public officials and employees conduct themselves in the posts to which they are elected or appointed; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Topeka have a right to expect that every public official/employee will conduct himself/herself in a manner that will tend to preserve public confidence and respect for the government he/she represents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Topeka that all officials and employees, whether paid or unpaid, appointed or elected, are expected that each will conduct themselves in accordance with the following code of ethics:

A. Respect the Constitution and the Law.

1. Make every effort to understand and accurately apply City of Topeka Ordinances and resolutions.
2. Seek to identify and eliminate City policies that are counterproductive or obsolete.
3. Seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination within the City of Topeka as provided by City Ordinance.
4. Seek to identify and correct all forms of mismanagement of public funds.
5. Respect and protect confidential information as provided by City Ordinance or State law.

27 6. Protect the rights of public employees as provided by City
28 Ordinance or State law.

29 7. Apply constitutional principles included within the Constitution of the
30 United States and State of Kansas in protecting citizen's rights.

31 **B. Serve the Public Interest.**

32 1. Recognize and support the Public's Right to Know City's Business.

33 2. Assist citizens in dealing with City government.

34 3. Make a sincere effort to provide complete, clear and easy to
35 understand responses regarding all matters relating to the City.

36 4. Invite City residents to participate in making City policy decisions
37 and provide full cooperation.

38 5. Exercise reasonable discretion with the purpose of promoting public
39 interest.

40 6. Oppose all unlawful forms of discrimination and harassment as
41 provided by City of Topeka Ordinance.

42 7. Exercise compassion and fairness in applying City policies,
43 resolutions and ordinances.

44 **C. Demonstrate Personal Integrity.**

45 1. Be truthful and honest.

46 2. Credit others for their work and contribution.

47 3. Avoid conflicts of interest in expending City funds, approving
48 contracts, or exercising governmental authority as provided by City
49 Ordinance or State law.

- 50 4. Respect superiors, subordinates, colleagues and the public at all
51 times.
52 5. Assume responsibility for errors and take immediate corrective
53 action.
54 6. Make decisions on behalf of the City and conduct City business
55 without partisanship.
56 7. Carry out official duties and decisions on behalf of the City in the
57 best interest of the City of Topeka and its taxpayers.
58 8. Expend City funds only for City business within the City's budget as
59 adopted by the City Council.

60 **D. Promote an Ethical Organization.**

- 61 1. Provide open communication and be creative with dedication to the
62 City of Topeka and its taxpayers.
63 2. Seek to promote Public interest and Public good without regard to
64 whose interests may be affected.
65 3. Provide employees with due process with regard to discipline
66 and/or termination as provided by City resolution, ordinance or
67 contract.
68 4. Avoid arbitrary and capricious actions in the implementation or
69 enforcement of City resolutions, ordinances and/or policies.
70 5. Strive for accountability regarding personal conduct in the
71 administration of the City of Topeka's business.

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73 E. Strive for Professional Excellence.

- 74 1. Support and encourage improving competence.
- 75 2. Assume responsibility for remaining current on all issues which may
- 76 effect or impact the City of Topeka, its employees and/or taxpayers.
- 77 3. Do not discourage participation in professional activities and
- 78 associations.
- 79 4. Implement and apply programs to improve public service
- 80 considering the needs of the City taxpayers.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS Code of Ethics shall be conspicuously

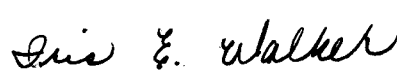
82 posted for review by public officials, employees and the citizens of the City of Topeka.

83 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council May 18, 2004.

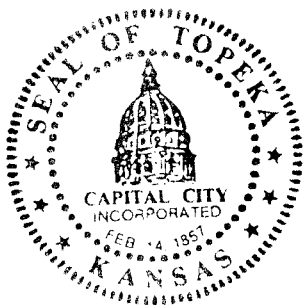
84 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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86 _____
87 James A. McClinton, Mayor

88 ATTEST:

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91 Iris E. Walker, City Clerk

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DATE 5/19/04 BY FL