

# TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY

## ETHICS POLICY

*The purpose of this ethics policy for the Town of Paradise Valley is to assure the quality of government through ethical principles which shall govern the conduct of the Town Council and members of the Town's boards, committees and commissions. We shall:*

- 1. Obey the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Arizona, and the laws of the Town of Paradise Valley.***
- 2. Be dedicated to the concepts of effective and democratic local government.***

***Democratic Leadership.*** We shall honor and respect the principles and spirit of representative democracy and set a positive example of good citizenship by scrupulously observing the letter and spirit of laws, rules, and regulations.

- 3. Affirm the dignity and worth of the services rendered by the Town government and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.***
- 4. Be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor, ethics, and integrity in all public and personal relationships.***

***Public Confidence.*** We shall conduct ourselves so as to maintain public confidence in Town government and in the performance of the public trust.

***Impression of Influence.*** We shall conduct our official and personal affairs in such a manner as to give a clear impression that we cannot be improperly influenced in the performance of our official duties.

- 5. Recognize that the chief function of local government is at all times to serve the best interests of all the people.***

***Public Interest.*** We shall treat our office as a public trust, only using the power and resources of public office to advance public interests, and not to attain personal benefit or pursue any other private interest incompatible with the public good.

- 6. Keep the community informed on municipal affairs; encourage communication between the citizens and all municipal officers; emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.***

***Accountability.*** We shall assure that government is conducted openly, efficiently, equitably, and honorably in a manner that permits the citizens to make informed judgments and hold Town officials accountable.

**Respectability.** We shall safeguard public confidence in the integrity of Town government by being honest, fair, caring and respectful, and by avoiding conduct creating the appearance of impropriety, or impropriety of which is otherwise unbecoming a public official.

- 7. Seek no favor; believe that personal benefit or profit secured by confidential or privileged information or by misuse of public time is dishonest.**

**Private Employment.** We shall not engage in, solicit, negotiate for, or promise to accept private employment or render services for private interests or conduct a private business when such employment, service, or business creates a conflict with or impairs the proper discharge of official duties.

**Confidential Information.** We shall not disclose to others, or use to further our personal interest, confidential information acquired in the course of our official duties.

**Gifts.** We shall not directly or indirectly, in connection with service to the Town, solicit any gift or accept or receive any gift - of any value - whether it be money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise, or any other form of gratuity. This policy shall not apply to hospitality, transportation or other assistance provided to Town officials, which is directly related to their participation in community events as a representative of the Town.

**Investment in Conflict with Official Duties.** We shall not invest or hold any investment, directly or indirectly, in any financial business, commercial or other private transaction that creates a conflict with our official duties.

**Personal Relationships.** Personal relationships shall be disclosed in any instance where there could be the appearance of conflict of interest or a conflict of interest.

- 8. Conduct business of the Town in a manner which is not only fair in fact, but also in appearance.**

**Disclosure.** In quasi-judicial proceedings, we shall abide by the directives of Arizona Revised Statutes which require full disclosure of contacts by proponents and opponents of land use projects which are before the Town Council. The Town's Boards and Commissions are also subject to these same rules. In addition to these requirements of state statutes, we shall apply this same standard of disclosure to other discretionary actions of the Council.