
The Foundation: INTEGRITY - An unimpaired condition: soundness; the quality or state of being complete or undivided.

The Pillars:

1. TRUST - Firm reliance upon the integrity, character and ability of another.

My Pledge: I receive the Trust conferred upon me by the citizenry through the powers that be and will live up to this calling.

2. HONOR - A distinguished reputation for truth, fairness, humility and courage in one’s beliefs and actions.

My Pledge: I will sacrificially represent the best interests of both supporters and detractors and graciously accept the reproach that will naturally be directed toward me as a public servant.

3. DUTY - A moral commitment that compels one to serve others and complete the tasks associated with the responsibilities of his office.

My Pledge: I choose now to make future decisions that are in the best interest of the community and to complete the tasks associated with the responsibilities of my government office or position.

4. RESPECT - Esteeming others better than myself and assessing a higher regard to their interests than to my own interests.

My Pledge: I will treat all others with dignity and respect regardless of how I am treated believing that, at the end of the day, my conduct will benefit everyone.

5. TRANSPARENCY - A public servant’s candor regarding his financial and personal interests and involvements as well as those of his immediate family members.

My Pledge: I will conduct government business as though my behavior is under constant public scrutiny and will at all times facilitate public awareness of the government decision-making process.

“Public confidence requires that municipal officials avoid conflicting interests that convey the perception that a personal rather than the public interest might affect decision making on matters of concern. Officials must be free of even the potential for entangling interests that will erode public trust in government actions. Thus, it is the potential for conflict, rather than proof of an actual conflict or of actual dishonesty, that commands a public official to disqualify himself from acting on a matter of public interest.” Thompson v. City of Atlantic City, 190 N.J. 359, 374, 921 A.2nd 427 (2007)
Profiles in Ethics:
Scenarios and case law that might rock your boat

What would you do? You are the Public Works Director in Favorsville New Jersey. Two of your laborers discover that you want to remodel your kitchen and approach you to advise that they have the expertise and possess all the tools to do the job right. You know they’ll do a great job and they quote a price that can’t be beat.

What would you do? You are the City Roads Department Superintendent. The day before your birthday you receive in the mail a beautiful Cross Pen set with a card thanking you for your dedicated service to the community. It’s from a friend who has recently become the City Towing Contractor.

You be the Judge!

The Land Use Board Opportunist who voted to approve a minor subdivision variance for a property then, two months later, became the real estate listing agent for the home.

A Family Thing. In response to a Grand Jury presentation and recommendations regarding the conditions and lack of regulations of four municipal junk yards and salvage operations, a council member attends on-site inspections of each site, one of which is owned and operated by his family.

The Great Engineering Feat in which a councilman resigns his office to accept multiple engineering contracts with the Borough.

The Interrogation in which a Councilman who is also an attorney accompanied a suspect to the City Police Department for questioning in a criminal investigation.

The Skittish Payroll Clerk who, at the request of a Borough Councilman inserted a political fund-raising flier in the bi-weekly payroll envelopes being distributed to all employees.

What would you do? You are the newly appointed Public Works Director who discovers that the Vehicle Maintenance Department offers to all city employees a quick routine service check of their personal vehicles.

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