

**ORDINANCE NO. 4076-07**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VII OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING DIVISION 4, SECTION 2-560 RELATING TO GIFTS AND AMENDING DIVISION 7 BY ADDING SECTION 2-622 RELATING TO TRAINING; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE, A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND A CODIFICATION CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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**WHEREAS**, public trust and confidence in the ethics of officers and employees of the City of West Palm Beach is of paramount concern to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City deemed it in the best interest of the City to establish a formal ethics program that includes a code of ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, by Ordinance No. 4023-07, the City adopted its ethics code on August 13, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the City now desires to add additional provisions to the ethics code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, that:**

**SECTION 1:** The City Commission hereby amends Chapter 2, Article VII of the Code of Ordinances to add Division 4, Section 2-560 as follows:

**ARTICLE VII. CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH CODE OF ETHICS**

**Division 3. RESERVED.**

**Division 4. GIFTS, HONORARIA AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

**Sec. 2-560. Adoption of Florida Gift Law.**

The city hereby adopts and incorporates by reference Florida's gift law provisions contained in Ch. 112, Part III, Fla. Stat., as it may be amended from time to time. Prohibited gifts shall include any contribution made to a charitable organization based upon any understanding that the vote, official action or

judgment of the public officer or employee would be influenced thereby. This section shall apply to officers, employees, public boards and city committees.

**SECTION 2:** The City Commission hereby amends Chapter 2, Article VII, Division 7 of the Code of Ordinances by adding Section 2-622 as follows:

**Sec. 2-622. Ethics education and training program.**

Officers and employees of the city, as public servants, are considered stewards of the public's trust and should aspire to the highest level of integrity and character. Officers and employees shall be informed of their ethical responsibilities at the start of their work with the city and shall receive updates and training materials on ethics issues throughout the span of their public service, as designated by the city ethics officer.

(1) Every officer and employee of the city must be responsible for understanding and complying with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Every elected official shall attend an ethics in government program within ninety (90) days of taking office. Upon fulfillment of this requirement, each elected official will be issued a certificate of completion.

(3) Every appointed employee shall attend an ethics in government program within the first six (6) months of his/her employment with the city. Upon fulfillment of this requirement, each appointed employee will be issued a certificate of completion.

(4) Every employee of the city shall complete an employee ethics training program within the first six (6) months of his/her employment with the city. Current employees shall complete training as designated in a schedule developed by human resources. Upon fulfillment of this requirement, each employee will be issued a certificate of completion.

(5) The ethics in government program and employee ethics training program shall be reviewed by the city ethics officer and the city attorney for consistence with this ethics code.

(6) The programs shall include topics as determined necessary to explain the provisions of this article, state and federal statutes concerning ethics, and general ethics issues.

**SECTION 3:** Should any section or provision of this Ordinance or any portion hereof, any paragraph, sentence or word, be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder hereof.

**SECTION 4:** All ordinances or parts of all other ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5:** The provisions of this Ordinance may be codified.

**SECTION 6:** This Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with law.

FIRST READING THIS 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2007.

SECOND READING THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Sept, 2007.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH  
BY ITS CITY COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
CITY CLERK

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
Approved as to form  
and legal sufficiency  
By: [Signature]  
Date: 8-27-08