

Code of Ethics

It is necessary for City of Brockton employees to hold the respect, trust, and confidence of the community. One way this is accomplished is through the creation and enforcement of ethical guidelines for the conduct of public employees. It is therefore the policy of this Administration to uphold, promote, and demand the highest standards of ethics from its employees for personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fairness in carrying out their public duties. Employees must avoid any improprieties in their roles as public servants, including, but not limited to, theft, dishonesty or the appearance of impropriety, and must never use their City position or powers for personal gain or in breach of the public trust.

Employees shall:

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

Public Interest: employees shall treat their 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.

2. *Keep the community informed on municipal affairs; encourage dialogue between the citizens and all municipal employees emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.*

Accountability: employees shall assure that government is conducted openly, efficiently, equitably and honorably in a manner that permits the citizenry to make informed judgments and hold city officials accountable.

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

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

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

Confidential Information: employees shall not disclose to others, or use to further their personal interest, confidential information acquired by them in the course of their official duties.

Gifts: employees shall not directly or indirectly solicit any gift or accept or receive any gift – whether it is money, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise or any other form – under the following circumstances:

- (a) It could be reasonably inferred or expected that the gift was intended to influence the performance of official duties; or
- (b) The gift was intended to serve as a reward for any official action on the official's part.

Investments in Conflict with Official Duties: employees shall not invest or hold any investment, directly or indirectly, in any financial business, commercial or other private transaction that creates a conflict with their official duties.

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

Personal Relationships: Personal relationships shall be disclosed in any instance where there could be the appearance of a conflict of interest. Employees are required to provide full disclosure of contacts by proponents and opponents having business before the City.

- 5. *Not knowingly violate any Massachusetts statute, City ordinance or regulation in the course of performing their duties.*

The parties recognize that the language of this policy is subject to differing interpretations. The City agrees that, in the event that it believes this policy has been violated, it shall first provide the employee with an oral warning. Thereafter, in the case of a subsequent violation, a written warning shall be issued. Thereafter, progressive discipline shall be applied.