

# Report on Ethics Subcommittee on the Proposed Ordinance

February 19, 2025

From: Lucille Lyon, Mickey Gallivan, Bernice Stillions

## 1. Definition of Ethics

"What is generally called the 'ethics' of the profession is but consensus of expert opinion as the necessity of professional standards." (Black's Law Dictionary)

## 2. Legal Ethics

"Usages and customs among members of the legal profession, involving their moral and professional duties toward one another." (Black's Law Dictionary)

## 3. General

"1. A system of moral principles.

2. The rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or particular group culture.

3. Moral principles of an individual.

4. The branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions." (Random House College Dictionary)

## 4. Clarification of the Commission's Authority

The same proposed Ordinance is submitted in order to obtain clarification of what the Commission is authorized to do.

### a. Verification of Complaints

If the Commission receives a complaint, how can the members verify the accuracy of the complaint without some type of investigation?

## b. Complaints Against City Council Members

If there is a complaint against any member of the City Council, what is expected of the Commission members?

## 5. Ethics Policy Sample

A sample copy of an Ethics policy is submitted for informational purposes. Ms. Lyon wrote this policy many years ago, but it may still be helpful.