

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. I WANT TO REPORT A VIOLATION, BUT I WANT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. CAN I DO THAT?**

A. Yes, there are two methods to submit an anonymous complaint:

- 1) Calling the Hotline at xxx and leaving a message without leaving your name.
- 2) Submitting the Ethics Complaint Form, which has the option to submit anonymously.

If you do provide your name, the City will not release it unless we receive your permission, we refer the complaint to another appropriate agency, or we are ordered by a court.

Investigations can be complex and can take many months to complete. We do not confirm or deny the existence of any complaint or investigation, and we do not provide updates on the status of complaints. We will not contact you unless we need additional information.

Please provide the information requested. The more information you give, the more helpful your complaint will be. Thank you for taking the time to report a possible violation

### **Q. I WANT TO REPORT A VIOLATION, WHAT DOES THAT ENTAIL?**

A. There are two methods to submit a complaint:

- 1) Calling the Hotline at xxx and leaving a detailed message
- 2) Submitting the Ethics Complaint Form

Both methods provide you with the ability to submit your complaint anonymously. If you provide your name, we will not release it unless we receive your permission, we refer the complaint to another appropriate agency, or we are ordered by a court.

Keep in mind that investigations can be complex and can take time to complete. We do not confirm or deny the existence of any complaint or investigation, and we do not provide updates on the status of complaints. We will not contact you unless we need additional information. Aspects of complaints, investigations and investigation findings will be discussed during regular Ethics Commission meetings.

Please provide the information requested on the Ethics Complaint Form ([link](#)). The more information you provide, the more helpful your complaint will be. Thank you for taking the time to report a possible violation.

**Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE COMPLAINT THAT I FILED WITH THE CITY?**

A. Due to the confidentiality of investigations the City is unable to provide status updates regarding individual complaints to the public. However, the City’s Ethics Commission will receive reports that summarize complaints and include any information that may be publicly disclosed during regular commission meetings [\(provide link\)](#). Complainants that file complaints online will be provided with a complaint number that can later be tracked by the complainant during regular Ethics Commission meetings.

**Q. I REPORTED A VIOLATION AND NOTHING EVER HAPPENED. WHY NOT?**

A. The City cannot publicly disclose the actions taken in response to every complaint. However, the new Ethics Commission is working with the City to ensure the maximum level of transparency as allowed by applicable laws.

All complaints submitted to the City are reviewed. However, in some cases the City may not be able to publicly disclose actions taken in response to a complaint for several reasons. For example, investigations against employees are governed by an additional set of HR guidelines and MOU provisions , the complaint may have been referred to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), or the information involved is not legally subject to public disclosure.

The Ethics Commission will receive reports that summarize complaints and any information that is public. These reports are presented at public meetings and are available on the City’s website under Commission meeting agenda Items [\(provide link\)](#).

**Q. WHERE CAN THE PUBLIC FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ETHICS?**

A. The City’s Ethics Policy and reporting procedures were updated in 2026 and can be found on this website:

Additional external Ethics resources can be found on the links below:

State Agencies:

- [Fair Political Practices Commission](#)
- [Office of the California Attorney General](#)
- [CA Secretary of State, Political Reform Division](#)
- [CA Franchise Tax Board](#)

**Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION?**

A. The Ethics commission was created by charter amendment, voted on by the electorate in 2022. The Ethics Commission is the main point for advice, education, policy review, campaign matters (including proactive audits on select campaign contributions and expenditures) and general information for Ethics related matters for Elected Officials, Commissioners and the

general public in Pomona. The Ethics Commission is responsible for developing and implementing an Ethics enforcement policy that applies to Elected Officials and Commissioners and begins after City staff conduct an investigation and intake process and provide the findings to the Ethics Commission for review and enforcement action (including required penalties and disciplinary actions to be imposed per law or necessary referrals to other agencies). The Commission is not an independent investigative or enforcement body but can only provide recommendations to the City Council.

**Q. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THAT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ETHICAL STANDARDS ARE UPHELD IN THE CITY?**

A. In Pomona the City Attorney, City Clerk and HR Department staff play distinct roles in Ethics matters working alongside the Ethics Commission. The City Attorney is the legal advisor to the City. They provide legal services and support for the City and advice for the Ethics Commission, including in areas like campaign finance, lobbying, and conflicts of interest laws.

The City Clerk is the local official who administers democratic processes such as elections, access to City records, and all legislative actions ensuring transparency to the public. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to conducting regular and special municipal elections and campaign disclosure and conflict of interest statement filings. The City Clerk works with the Ethics Commission by providing status updates on Ethics related filings by Commissioners and Elected Officials and providing information as requested regarding campaign disclosures and local campaign rules.

The HR Department staff are the assigned staff liaisons to the Ethics Commission. The HR staff works closely with the Ethics Commission and provides Ethics related information and policies to City employees as well as ensuring employees are adhering to ethical and legal standards of conduct.

**Q. HOW LONG DO ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS TAKE?**

A. Ethics related investigations have the potential of being lengthy depending on a variety of factors including but not limited to the nature of the complaint, number of parties involved, number of witnesses (or lack thereof), supporting documentation (or lack thereof), the body assigned to do the investigation, etc. We ask parties to be patient as it is in everyone's best interest that investigations are conducted properly.

**Q. WHAT IS THE CITY'S ETHICS POLICY?**

A. You can find the City of Pomona's Ethics Policy [here](#). The Ethics policy applies to how elected officials, appointed officials, City employees, members of advisory commissions/committees, volunteers, City contractors/consultants and individuals running for office carry out their respective duties as City Officials or candidates for public office. The Ethics policy covers a wide range of areas including but not limited to conflicts of interest and campaign violations. Ethical violations may include illegal acts but also actions that have the appearance of impropriety.