

# CODE OF ETHICS

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

**M**EMBERS SHALL ETHICALLY SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY MAKING DECISIONS AND TAKING ACTIONS WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE REGION AND THE CITIZENS SERVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BY PROMOTING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE, ABILITY AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

1. Members shall uphold the prestige of their office and avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.
2. Members shall not convey the impression that they are in a position to influence the outcome of a decision of the Planning Commission and shall not attempt to use their office to influence or sway the professional staff recommendation.
3. Members shall discharge their duties and responsibilities without favor or prejudice toward any person or group. Members shall not allow personal or business relationships to impact upon their conduct or decisions in connection with Planning Commission business and shall not lend their influence towards the advancement of personal interests or towards the advancement of the interests of friends or business associates.
4. Members shall avoid creating the appearance of impropriety by refraining from engaging in private discussions with the applicant or their representatives about specific upcoming Planning Commission agenda items. If a Member receives a private written, telephonic or electronic communication about an agenda item, the Member will promptly forward the information to the Executive Director so that it may be shared with all other Members. Members shall refrain from any private discussion of Planning Commission business with other Members per the requirements of Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Law, Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.
5. Members shall not accept or solicit a gift, loan, payment, favor, service, promise of employment or business contract, meal, transportation or anything else of value, if such thing is given with the understanding or possibility that it will influence the official action of the Member during Planning Commission proceedings. The same standard shall apply to a gift, loan, favor, etc. for the spouse child, relative or business partner of the Member.
6. A Member who announces or files as a candidate for public office shall resign immediately from the Planning Commission. No Member shall solicit funds from any other Member in support of any person's campaign for election to local or state public office.
7. Members should refrain from participating in any proceeding in which their impartiality may reasonably be questioned. A Member whose personal, employment or business relationship with a person or entity that is subject to a recommendation of the Planning Commission shall seek the advice and counsel of the Planning Commission Attorney, if such relationship could conceivably influence the Member's impartiality during the Planning Commission's discussion of the subject. The provisions of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, shall govern conflict of interest determinations.
8. Members shall remain vigilant against deviations from Planning Commission by-laws, policies and mission statement.