

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

Ordinance amending the ethics code in chapters 3.90 and 3.92 of the Bellevue City Code to improve clarity, consistency and implementation; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****ACTION**

This Ordinance amends the city's ethics code in chapters 3.90 and 3.92 in the Bellevue City Code (BCC) to improve clarity, consistency and implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6913

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The city's ethics code are in chapters 3.90 and 3.92 BCC. Chapter 3.90 BCC establishes ethical standards for city employees in the performance of their city work; and chapter 3.92 BCC applies to members of the city council and council-appointed boards, commissions and committees to achieve the highest ethical standards and best practices.

The recommended amendments to the ethics code are to improve clarity, consistency and implementation. Both chapters 3.90 and 3.92 BCC have not been updated in many years since their original adoption in 1977 and 2013 respectively—and contain inconsistent and outdated provisions and references. Below are summaries of the recommended amendments.

Chapter 3.92 BCC – Code of Ethics for City council and City Boards, Commissions and Committees (Attachment A)

1. Increasing the aggregate value limit for gifts to \$100 from a single source in a calendar year
2. Clarifying that officials are required (not encouraged) to comply with ethical standards
3. Streamlining procurement of ethics officer position
4. Correcting outdated references and general clean-ups

Chapter 3.90 BCC – Code of Ethics (Attachment B)

1. Adding a list of exceptions to gifts that can be presumed to not create a conflict of interest to cover common scenarios, e.g., unsolicited plaque or trophy, food items that are shared with other employees, discounts based on occupation or similar broad-based category
2. Adding an aggregate value limit for gifts to \$100 from a single source in a calendar year
3. Updating provisions related to political activities for consistency with protected individual rights
4. Correcting outdated references and general clean ups

**POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS****Policy Impact**

The recommended amendments will improve clarity and implementation of the city's ethics code. The amendments align with the intent of the ethics code to promote public confidence in the integrity of local government and its fair operation.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing these changes.

**OPTIONS**

1. Move to adopt the Ordinance amending the ethics code in chapters 3.90 and 3.92 of the Bellevue City Code to improve clarity, consistency and implementation; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Chapter 3.92 BCC Redlined Strike-Draft
  - B. Chapter 3.90 BCC Redlined Strike-Draft
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6913

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N/A