

Chapter 14

CODE OF ETHICS

Local Law

No. 1

1971

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WALTON

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[HISTORY: Adopted Walton Village Board 2-1-71 as Local Law No. 1, 1971. Amendments noted where applicable.]

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Walton as follows:

§ 14-1. Legislative intent.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 806 of the General Municipal Law, the Village Board of the Village of Walton recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public

officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. It is the purpose of this local law to promulgate these rules of ethical conduct for the officers and employees of the Village of Walton. These rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of the officers and employees of the Village of Walton. The rules of ethical conduct of this local law, as adopted, shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to, any prohibition of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law relating to ethical conduct and interest in contracts or municipal officers and employees.

§ 14-2. Definitions.

MUNICIPAL OFFICER or EMPLOYEE — An officer or employee of the Village of Walton, whether paid or unpaid, including members of any administrative board, commission or other agency thereof. No person shall be deemed to be a municipal officer or employee solely by reason of being a volunteer, except a chief executive or assistant engineer.

INTEREST — A pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a municipal officer or employee unless the context otherwise requires.

§ 14-3. Standards of conduct.

Every officer or employee of the Village of Walton shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

- A. Gifts. He shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit any gifts; or accept or receive any gift having a value of twenty-five dollars (\$25.) or more, whether in the form of

money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him, or could reasonably be expected to influence him, in the performance of his official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his part.

- B. Confidential information. He shall not disclose confidential information acquired by him in the course of his official duties or use such information to further his personal interest.
- C. Representation before one's own agency. He shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any municipal agency over which he has jurisdiction, or to which he has the power to appoint any member, officer or employee.
- D. Representation before any agency for a contingent fee. He shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any agency of his municipality whereby his compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by such agency with respect to such matter, provided that this paragraph shall not prohibit the fixing at any time of fees based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered.
- E. Disclosure of interest in legislation. To the extent that he knows thereof, a member of the Village Board and any officer or employee of the Village of Walton, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in the discussion or gives official opinion to the Village Board on any legislation before the Village Board shall publicly disclose on the

official record the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest he has in such legislation.

F. Investments in conflict with official duties. He shall not invest or hold any investment directly or indirectly in any financial, business, commercial or other private transaction which creates a conflict with his official duties.

G. Private employment. He shall not engage in, solicit, negotiate for or promise to accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service creates a conflict with or impairs the proper discharge of his official duties.

H. Future employment. He shall not, after termination of service or employment with such municipality, appear before any board or agency of the Village of Walton in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he personally participated during the period of his service or employment or which was under his active consideration.

§ 14-4. Exception for certain claims.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former municipal officer or employee of any claim, account, demand or suit against the Village of Walton, or any agency thereof, on behalf of himself or any member of his family arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

§ 14-5. Distribution of Code of Ethics.

The Mayor of the Village of Walton shall cause a copy of this Code of Ethics to be distributed to every officer and employee of the Village of Walton within ten (10) days after the effective date of this local law. Each officer and employee elected or appointed thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his office or employment.

§ 14-6. Penalties.

In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, any person who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this code may be fined, suspended or removed from office or employment, as the case may be, in the manner provided by law.

§ 14-7. When effective.

This local law shall take effect ten (10) days after it is filed, as provided in Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.