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12-15-18

City of Alexandria Code of Ethics and Conduct

Docket 19-1539

December 15, 2018

This is to submit a suggestion to add the phrase "health and safety" to those placed in the Code of Ethics and Conduct and Pledge where "public interest" is found. For example, under the Code of Ethics and Conduct, Item 6. Would read:

"Serve the public interest, **health and safety** by upholding the letter and the spirit of the City, Commonwealth, and Federal statutes, regulations, and policies."

And, under the Pledge signed by the mayor and all members of Council when taking the oath of office, under Item 2, second bullet point would read:

"putting the public interest, **health and safety** first;"

The reason for this suggestion is that Federal statutes, regulations, and policies include those of the Environmental Protection Agency, which has as its core mission: "protecting **human health** and the environment." (<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/tiff2png.cgi/P100V751.PNG?-r+75+-g+7+D%3A%5CZYFILES%5CINDEX%20DATA%5C16THRU20%5CTIFF%5C00000425%5CP100V751.TIF>, accessed 12/11/2018)

Further, the Virginia DEQ has as its mission:

"The Department of Environmental Quality protects and enhances Virginia's environment, and promotes the **health and well being** of the citizens of the Commonwealth." (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/AboutUs/Mission.aspx>, accessed 12/11/2018)

By adding these two words (health and safety) to the phrase "public interest," the City of Alexandria would be providing more detail to what the public interest includes, since this term is very broad in and of itself.

Finally, as a Certified Industrial Hygienist and a Certified Safety Professional, who operates under Codes of Ethics for both these designations, I personally feel that adding health and safety to the phrase public interest would set the City of Alexandria ahead of its peers in elucidating specific attributes to the phrase "public interest" that is in keeping with the codes of ethics under which professionals like me operate.

If I am not able to attend the meeting on Saturday, December 15, 2018, I request that these comments be added to the public record of response for this docket item.

Sincerely,

Celia A. Booth, CIH, CSP

912 West Braddock Road

Alexandria, Virginia 22302

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12-15-18

**Gloria Sitton**

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**From:** Mark Williams via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 10, 2018 6:19 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Alexis Lacy; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #163428: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council December 15, 2018 Council...

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A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 163428.

**Request Details:**

This is a "private" request. Information should only be provided to the original customer.

- Name: Mark Williams
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202.531.5125
- Email: markcwilliams@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description:

December 15, 2018 Council Meeting - Item #9, Docket 19-1539 - City Ethics Pledge Item

In 2016 in Res. 2707, Council adopted an ethics code and pledge, following a turgid process in which an advisory committee recommended mandatory ethics provisions that grossly and conspicuously exceeded Council's legal authority. Council was guided by the City Attorney to make fundamental changes to the results of the Res. 2707 process (see the attached memorandum, which the City released as a docket reference).

Since Council's initial public hearing on what became Res. 2707, the city's ethics pledge has been used solely as an unblunted and misleading political weapon, giving politically extreme characters the ability to broadly claim that every action by every Council incumbent is unethical.

The entire Res. 2707 ethics package was a time-wasting exercise in political grandstanding. It was intended to insult and intimidate City elected and appointed officials. The Res. 2707 ethics pledge and ethics code have been deployed solely for the purpose of misuse by hostile candidates for party and public office.

The process of adopting the Res. 2707 documents was as questionable as the results of Res. 2707. The City's "ethics commission" did not take or accept one single in-person public comment. The "ethics commission" never once acknowledged nor addressed a single public email inquiry to the City email address that was created for that purpose. The "ethics commission" members did not, in that capacity, file their own ethics disclosures under Code of Virginia T. 2.2 Ch. 31 Art. 5. The "ethics commission" never posted a single pre-meeting agenda after its first meeting. Instead, the "ethics commission" members concerned themselves with multiple discussions of matters such as the merits of the Athenian Pledge.

Notably, the "ethics commission" sought - multiple times - to sua sponte convert their legal status into that of an ethics investigative and enforcement panel. And the "ethics commission" engaged in frolic so remote from any possible ethics-related purpose that Council should have questioned whether the panel should properly have been dismissed at once, following its first meeting.

Even if entirely voluntary, Res. 2707 is utterly inconsistent - by any reading - with Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3115(C), which prohibits any mandate to file any non-state statutory disclosure - even a disclosure of whether an

Alexandria official has executed the Res. 2707 ethics pledge. The City Attorney cautioned Council on this very real risk.

The Res. 2707 exercise was a Trumpian venture. It was colossal waste of time and public resources. It involved subject-matter that could only be used for malicious political purposes - which is exactly what happened. It produced City "ethics" documents designed to suppress political discussion and disagreement with City leadership. The process and the result were offensive infringements on civil rights.

Council should repeal Res. 2707 in its entirety, with an explicit declaration that repeal is nunc pro tunc.

- Attachment: [Alex 2707 CityAtty for 5-24-16.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Saturday, December 15

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the \*\*Call.Click.Connect.\*\* staff interface.](#)

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