

Proposed Amendment #3

THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO

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ARTICLE THREE. THE COUNCIL

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ARTICLE FOUR. THE MAYOR

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ARTICLE TEN. ETHICS

10.1. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The citizens of Cleveland Heights rightfully expect their government of elected and appointed officials, and their employees, to behave legally and ethically. All officials are expected to treat each other with respect and work together for the good of the City and its residents to make the City a desirable place to live. The citizens also rightfully expect honesty, respect and fair treatment by all involved in governance. City officials have a responsibility to educate, monitor, and support all employees and City representatives in this mission.

10.2. OATH OF OFFICE

The Mayor, City Administrator, all members of Council, and all other officers of the City shall, before entering upon the duties of the respective office or position, take and sign an oath or affirmation that conforms to applicable laws of the State of Ohio.

10.3. PUBLIC ETHICS

(a) City officials and employees shall comply with the general laws of the State of Ohio governing the ethical conduct of public officials and employees, including, but not limited to, prohibitions against conflicts of interest, accepting anything of value and unlawful interests in public contracts. No provision of this Article Ten shall be construed as limiting the applicability of the terms of the general laws of the State of Ohio governing the ethical conduct of public officials and employees, including, but not limited to, the prohibitions listed above, or the disqualification of or removal of public officials or employees from office or employment.

(b) The Mayor shall be responsible for having copies of the relevant ethics laws delivered to each City official and employee. Each City official and employee shall attend training (in person or online) periodically from the Ohio Ethics Commission concerning the relevant ethics laws. If the Ohio Ethics Commission no longer provides that training, Council shall authorize the engagement of another provider for that training. The provider shall have expertise in the subject of laws governing the ethical conduct of public officials and employees in Ohio and shall be independent of the City.

10.4. ROLE OF COUNCIL

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Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit Council from providing by ordinance additional rules and policies concerning the ethical conduct of elected and appointed City officials and employees that are not duplicative of or in conflict with the general laws of the State of Ohio.

10.5 TRAINING FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR

The City is committed to the best practices of municipal governance, innovation and administration, including those related to ethics, finances, budgeting, safety forces, infrastructure, human resources, planning and development, and current issues facing Cleveland Heights. To achieve these goals, Council members and the Mayor shall complete training pertinent to their respective positions on the best practices of municipal governance and administration. This training may include but not be limited to, parliamentary procedure, training on the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Council members, and Directors, Council's subpoena power and introduction and preparation of laws, resolutions and ordinances. Training sessions are to be provided for by the City, as determined by Council, within three (3) months of a person's election or appointment to the position of Council or Mayor.

Training shall consist of eight (8) hours of instruction for new Council members and sixteen (16) hours of instruction for new Mayor. Council members who have previously served on Council and any Mayor who has previously held the office of Mayor of the City are exempt from the requirements of this section, but have the option of taking the opportunity for the training provided by the City.

When training is completed, the Clerk of Council shall provide each officer with a certificate of completion. The certificate shall be signed by the person designated by Council to verify the completion of the training. The signed certificate shall be filed with the Clerk of Council prior to the expiration of the three (3) -month period of time for the completion of training.