

Rancho Cucamonga City Council Code of Ethics

Adopted April 1, 2020

The effective operation of democratic institutions requires that public officials enjoy the trust and confidence of the individuals and businesses they serve. Accordingly, the City of Rancho Cucamonga has adopted this code to:

1. Encourage the highest standards of behavior, going beyond the requirements of the law;
2. Promote and maintain public trust and confidence; and
3. Provide an ongoing source of guidance to members of the City Council in their day-to-day service to Rancho Cucamonga.
4. Provide a seamless integration process for new members of the City Council.

This Code of Ethics is based on our most important core values as a City Council. As part of our service to the City, we agree to live out the values in this Code through our day-to-day service to this world class community, and use it to assist and guide our decision-making.

This Code will be reviewed on a regular basis, and the City Council will consider updating the Code as necessary.

1. Core Value: Integrity/Honesty

Expressions (in practice, what this Value looks like):

- I am honest with my fellow elected officials, the public, and others.
- I am truthful, do what I say I will do, and am dependable.
- I am trustworthy, acting with the utmost integrity and moral courage.
- I make impartial decisions, and extend equal opportunities and due process to all parties in matters under consideration.
- I am fair, distributing benefits and burdens according to consistent and equitable criteria.
- I take responsibility for my actions, even when it is uncomfortable to do so.
- I am prepared to make difficult decisions when I am confident the public's best interests requires it.

Examples of when this issue arises:

- When I am asked a question, I will share the facts, even if the other person may not want to hear them.
- If I offend someone, I will apologize and own my mistake.

2. Core Value: Respect for Fellow Officials, Staff, and the Public

Expressions (in practice, what this Value looks like):

- During public meetings and within the community, I will treat my fellow officials, staff, and the public with patience, courtesy, and civility, even when we disagree on what is best for the community. Especially when we disagree, we will still

acknowledge that, generally, people have the best of intentions and are interested in the betterment of the community.

- I will communicate that all Councilmembers are Team Rancho; we work for all residents, and despite being elected by districts, we act as a whole.
- I will work towards consensus-building and gain value from diverse opinions.
- I engage in effective two-way communication by being approachable, listening carefully, being open-minded, and determining an appropriate response that adds value to the conversation.
- I will support a positive work environment for our staff.

Examples of when this issue arises:

- I will show respect by giving priority to my City commitment, doing my homework and coming to meetings prepared. At City Council meetings, I will provide my input from the dais and not as public comment, out of respect for my colleagues and the office I hold.
- When discussing contentious issues, I will approach discussions assuming that many people will have pieces of answers, and that cooperation will lead to workable solutions for the most difficult problems.
- I will involve staff in meetings with individuals, both those with business before the agency and others, to ensure proper staff support and keep staff informed
- When disagreeing with someone, I can still acknowledge our mutual good intentions for the community while expressing my opinions.

3. Core Value: Responsibility (Community Service and Proper Use of Public Resources)

Expressions (in practice, what this value looks like):

- As a representative of the community, I serve as a model of leadership and civility, and provide courteous and professional service to everyone.
- I apply my knowledge and expertise to my City work and to the interpersonal relationships that are a part of my role in a consistent, competent, positive and productive manner.
- I actively promote the efficient and economical use of public resources, recognizing that the responsibility for making both large and small decisions about the use of public resources is a public trust.
- I make decisions after prudent consideration of their financial impact, taking into account the long-term financial needs of the City, especially its financial stability.
- I do not use information that I acquire in my public capacity for any personal advantage.

Examples of when this issue arises:

- I will work to allocate resources in a way that supports the City's long-range vision and provides residents with the best programs and services.
- If the community is in need of a new service, I will consider that other services may have to be phased out in order to make room for these changing priorities; services cannot always expand or continue indefinitely without considering their impacts.

4. **Core Value: Compassion**

Expressions (in practice, what this Value looks like):

- I am attuned to, and care about, the needs and issues of citizens, public officials, and City staff.
- I act in a cooperative manner with groups and other individuals, working together in a spirit of tolerance, empathy and understanding.
- I convey the City's care for and commitment to the people of our community.
- I am sensitive to the fact that some people in the community may be intimidated by public officials and agencies, so I will strive to make their interactions with our agency as stress-free and productive as possible.

Examples of when this issue arises:

- I listen carefully to community feedback, and connect people to the City Manager or other appropriate staff to address their needs in a timely manner.
- I seek to hear from diverse voices, recognizing that some in our community may not be as vocal as others, but that their needs and opinions are just as important.