

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE CITY'S GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS ORDINANCE
APPROVED AND EFFECTIVE ON JULY 29, 2015**

- Clarifies that ownership of common stock of a public company is a “financial interest” in the company when it reaches the threshold of ½ of 1% (§§2-156-010(l) and -110).
- Expands the role of departmental and aldermanic ethics officers in assisting the Board with respect to City- wide compliance with filing and training requirements (§2-156- 017(b)(1)).
- Clarifies that neither “City” nor “City-owned” property can be used for any unauthorized purpose (§2-156-060).
- Clarifies that persons who disclose non-minor past or ongoing violations of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance to the Board of Ethics may report themselves to the appropriate inspector general, and if they do not, the Board must, within 14 days ((§2-156-070(b)).
- Clarifies the reverse revolving door provision by: (i) permanently prohibiting new City employees or officials from participating in a City matter if they worked substantially on that matter for their immediate pre-City employer or client; and (ii) prohibiting new City employees and officials for two years from working on any other matter involving their immediate pre-City employer or client unless they have severed all ties with that employer or client that could confer any monetary benefit to them (§2-156-111).
- Clarifies that the prohibition against knowingly soliciting political contributions from persons doing or seeking City business applies to all City employees and appointed officials (§2-156-140).
- Strengthens the gift restrictions by requiring Board of Ethics approval prior to any City employee or official accepting reasonable hosting expenses for meetings, appearances, public events, or ceremonies related to official City business (§2-156-142(d)(12)).
- Clarifies the provision governing gifts between City employees by allowing gift cards of nominal value (\$10 or less) to be given for birthdays or holidays (§2-156-143(d)(1)).
- Clarifies that the deadline for the annual filing of statements of financial interests is May 31st (§§2-156-150(c) and -190(a)).
- Clarifies that elected officials and persons appointed to elected City office may not take their oath of office until they have properly filed a statement of financial interests with the Board of Ethics (§§2-156-150(f) and 200)).

- Allows the Board of Ethics to return an investigative report to the respective inspector general for additional investigation or clarification prior to determining whether the report shows probable cause that the Governmental Ethics Ordinance was violated (§2-156-380(h-1)).
- Codifies existing practice by enabling the Board of Ethics to review lobbyists' filings for potential violations of the campaign contribution limitations and refer potential violations to the appropriate inspector general (§2-156-380(n-1)).
- Clarifies the requirement in existing law that, when either inspector general seeks a finding of probable cause from the Board of Ethics after completing an investigation, it provide the Board with the final investigative report and all supporting evidence supporting its conclusions and request, together with an evidentiary index (§2-156-385(2)).
- Clarifies that the City prosecutor may exercise discretion not to file charges in order to proceed to a hearing on the merits of a violation of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance, if, in the prosecutor's judgment, the evidence in the record does not support the charges (§2-156-392(2)).
- Clarifies that appeals from any final decision by the Board of Ethics are subject to judicial review under the applicable state law (§2-156-396(c)).
- Clarifies that the Board may comment publicly on its final determinations in matters it has adjudicated, given that the Board does not conduct investigations (§2-156-400).
- Allows the Board to make public the names of lobbyists found in violation for failing to register, file activity reports, or complete annual training (§2-156-465(3)).