

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING AN ETHICS POLICY, DEFINING CERTAIN TERMS, PROVIDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, PROVIDING FOR FINES, PENALTIES AND DISPOSITION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATES AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.**

**Whereas**, it is in the interest of good government that the conduct of the public business should be accomplished by City Officials and City Employees that have no personal financial interest in such public business;

**Whereas**, the proper operation of government requires that City Officers and City Employees be independent and impartial and that governmental decisions and policy be made within the proper channels of the governmental structure;

**Whereas**, it is important that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government and its governmental officials and that a public office not be used for personal gain; Now, therefore,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** The following Code of Ethics is hereby adopted and enacted:

**"CODE OF ETHICS OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS"**

**Section 1. Policy.**

It is the policy of the City that the proper operation of democratic government requires that City Officials be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that governmental decisions and policy be made through the proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government and its governmental officials.

The purpose of this Code is to establish a code of conduct and enumerate existing state laws which, in addition to other applicable laws, regulate the conduct and activities of City Officials and City Employees, and to establish such additional standards as deemed necessary and appropriate to assure the faithful and impartial administration of the City's government.

**Section 2. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this Code of Ethics the following words, terms and phrases shall have the meanings defined below:

2.01. City Employee: Any person employed by the City, including the Harlingen WaterWorks System and Valley International Airport, and including those individuals employed on a part-time basis.

2.02. City Officer: The Mayor, Members of the City Commission, the City Manager, Asst. City Manager, HWWS General Manager, VIA Manager, City Attorneys, City Secretary, Municipal Court Judges, and each member and alternate member of all City Boards, Commissions, and Committees, including ad hoc committees appointed for specific projects.