

City of Lyndon

Ethics Committee Working Group Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Lyndon City Hall

1. Call to Order

Chair Mera Kathryn Corlett called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. All committee members were present:

- Mera Kathryn Corlett, Chair
- Malick Diallo, Secretary
- Calvin Shaak, Member

Additional attendee: Council Member Becky Rickets.

2. Ethics Complaint Process

- Reviewed timeline: respondents have 20 days to file a written response.
 - Hearings will include introduction, presentation of complaint, attorney-led interviews of complainant/respondent, committee questions, deliberation, and vote.
 - Complaints are public once filed, but members may not discuss them outside official proceedings.
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3. Standards of Conduct Discussion

- Committee agreed to begin revisions with **standards of conduct** rather than conflicts of interest.

- Emphasis on: fairness, honesty, adequate attention to duties, and professional behavior.
 - Agreed to add clause: **"When in doubt, seek an advisory opinion."**
 - Language will be concise, supported by examples, but flexible for unforeseen cases.
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4. Gifts

- Committee debated value thresholds.
 - **Decision:** Limit personal gifts to **\$300 annually from any one source**, consistent with financial disclosure forms.
 - Gifts to the City of Lyndon are permitted if transferred to the city.
 - Campaign contributions and nonprofit donations require clarification with legal counsel.
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5. Use of City Property

- Members agreed that city resources (property, staff, or equipment) may only be used when **equally available to the public**.
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6. Representation of Interests

- Officials may not represent or appear on behalf of private individuals before city government.
 - Determined this belongs under **standards of conduct**.
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7. Political Activity

- Consensus: City officials and employees may not engage in political activity **while on duty, in uniform, or using city resources.**
 - Discussion also covered supervisors pressuring subordinates for campaign activity or contributions; members agreed this is improper, though already restricted under federal/state law.
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8. Outside Employment

- Reviewed KLC model language.
 - Noted potential conflicts with state law regarding police and National Guard service.
 - Consensus: Outside employment concerns are primarily **HR/management issues** and may not need to be included in the ethics code.
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9. False Statements / Reputation

- Considered language prohibiting false or reputation-damaging statements.
 - Members expressed concern about chilling free speech and generating unnecessary complaints.
 - **Decision:** Exclude this language; rely on broader standards and First Amendment protections.
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10. Attendance & Honoraria

- Discussed proposed rules on meeting attendance and prohibiting honoraria for speaking.
 - **Consensus:** Not an ethics issue; belongs in council or personnel policy.
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11. Training and Professionalism

- Committee supports offering **ethics and communication trainings** for council and officials.
 - Possible facilitation by Kentucky League of Cities (KLC).
 - Future meetings will address **communications and social media use**.
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12. Public Comment

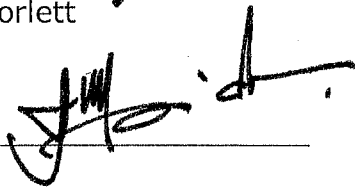
Council Member Becky Ricketts raised questions about attendance, use of city property, financial disclosures, and op-eds. Committee noted these issues for future clarification and/or training.

13. Adjournment

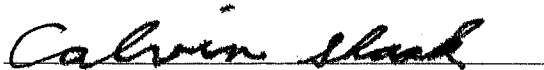
Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.



Mera Kathryn Corlett



Malick Diallo



Calvin Shaak