

# **Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea**

## **Personal Code of Conduct For The Town Commission**

### **PREAMBLE**

Improving the quality of public administration and governance can be achieved by encouraging high standards of conduct on the part of all government officials. In particular, the public is entitled to expect the highest standards of conduct from the Commissioners that it elects to local government office. In turn, adherence to these standards will protect and maintain the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea's reputation and integrity.

To these ends, the Town Commission of the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, as one of several initiatives, adopts this *Personal Code of Conduct for The Town Commission*. It covers the Commissioners, the Vice-Mayor and the Mayor (referred to as "Commissioners"). It is intended to supplement and be compatible with the state and local laws governing the conduct of Commissioners, and shall not be interpreted to require conduct that would violate any applicable law.

The key statements of principle that underline the *Code of Conduct* are as follows:

- Commissioners should serve, and be seen to serve, their constituents in a conscientious and diligent manner.
- Commissioners should be committed to performing the functions of their office with integrity.
- Commissioners should avoid the improper use of the influence of their office, and conflicts of interest, both apparent and real.
- Commissioners are expected to perform their duties in office and arrange their private affairs in a manner that promotes public confidence and will bear close public scrutiny.
- Commissioners should seek to serve the public interest by upholding both the letter and the spirit of all applicable laws and policies of the United States of America, of the State of Florida, of Broward County, and of the Town.
- Commissioners are expected to conduct themselves with the utmost professionalism, so that they may be worthy of the respect of others at all times.
- Commissioners are expected to refrain from personal agendas, attacks or intimidation of others.

### **USE OF TOWN PROPERTY, SERVICES AND OTHER RESOURCES**

Commissioners should not use, or permit the use of, Town land, facilities, equipment, supplies, services, staff or other resources for activities other than the business of the Town. Nor should Commissioners obtain personal financial gain from their role as Commissioner.

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### **DISCREDITABLE CONDUCT**

All Commissioners have a duty to treat members of the public, one another, and staff appropriately and without abuse, bullying or intimidation, and to ensure that their work environment is free from discrimination and harassment.

### **IMPROPER USE OF INFLUENCE**

Commissioners should not use the influence of their office for any purpose other than for the exercise of their official duties.

Examples of prohibited conduct are the use of one's status as a Commissioner to improperly influence the decision of another person, to the private advantage of oneself, or one's parents, children or spouse, staff members, friends, or associates, business or otherwise. This includes attempts to secure preferential treatment, beyond activities in which Commissioners normally engage on behalf of their constituents as part of their official duties. Also prohibited is the holding out of the prospect or promise of future advantage, through a Commissioner's supposed influence over the Commission, in return for present or future action or inaction.

### **CONDUCT AT COMMISSION, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Commissioners should conduct themselves with decorum at Commission, Board and Committee meetings, treating others with respect and professionalism. Commissioners should abide by the rules and regulations agreed to during the Organizational Meeting held after each election. There should be no politicking from the dais, using rhetoric that is designed only to improve one's own status or gain political advantage.

### **REPRISALS AND OBSTRUCTION**

Commissioners should respect the integrity of this *Code of Conduct* and matters related to it. Any reprisal or threat of reprisal against a person providing information to the Commission about a potential deviation from this Code is therefore prohibited.

### **SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE**

In order to maintain compliance with the Sunshine Law, Commissioners should not directly or indirectly communicate with one another regarding Town business by any means of communication unless they are at a publicly noticed meeting. If a Commissioner desires to provide factual information to other Commissioners regarding Town business, the Commissioner should provide such information directly to the Town Manager with a request for distribution. Statements of opinion or of preferred policy should be submitted in the form of an agenda item request for consideration on a Town Commission meeting agenda.

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**ENFORCEMENT**

The Commission shall be the sole judge of any deviations from the Code of Conduct. The sole remedy for such a deviation shall be a vote of censure by a supermajority of the Commission (4 out of 5 votes), following notice of the alleged deviation and an opportunity for the Commissioner whose conduct is being questioned to be heard by the Commission regarding the alleged deviation.

*The undersigned Commissioners hereby agree to follow this Code of Conduct during the term of office from 2016 to 2018, and to be accountable to each other for their compliance.*

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Mayor Scot Sasser

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Vice-Mayor Mark Brown

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Commissioner Chris Vincent

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Commissioner Elliot Sokolow

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Commissioner Alfred “Buz” Oldaker