Chapter 17. Ethics, Code of

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park 8-21-1989 by L.L. No. 16-1989. This local law also superseded former Ch. 17, Ethics, Code of, adopted 9-8-1970. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 17-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Town of Clifton Park Disclosure and Ethics Law."

§ 17-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum standards of conduct for the Town of Clifton Park officials, officers and employees and those who seek or obtain a direct or indirect pecuniary or material benefit from the Town of Clifton Park to help ensure that the business of Town government is free from improper influence that may result from opportunities for private gain. At the same time, it is recognized that public service cannot require a complete divesting of all proprietary interest nor impose intrusive disclosure requirements if the Town government is to attract and retain competent administrators and employees. Although the assurance of ethical conduct will continue to rest primarily upon the personal integrity of the officials, officers and employees themselves and upon the commitment of the elected and appointed members of Town government, the establishment of the standards set forth in this chapter is an additional step toward providing the highest caliber of public administration for the Town of Clifton Park and increased confidence in Town government. By requiring public disclosure of financial interests that may influence or be perceived to influence the actions of Town government, this chapter is intended to facilitate consideration of potential problems before they arise, to minimize unwarranted suspicion and to enhance the accountability of the Town government to the people.

§ 17-3. Definitions.

FAMILY MEMBER

A spouse, child, brother, sister or dependent.

§ 17-5. Transactional disclosure.

A.

Whenever a Town officer or employee is requested or required to take any action on a matter before the Town and, to his or her knowledge, the performance of that action would provide a pecuniary or material benefit either to the Town officer or employee or to any related person, the Town officer or employee shall not participate in any manner whatsoever in that matter. The Town officer or employee shall file promptly with his or her immediate superior, if any, and with the Town Clerk a statement disclosing the nature and extent of that interest and attesting to the accuracy of the statement.

[Amended 12-1-2008 by L.L. No. 10-2008]

B.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a Town officer or employee from performing any ministerial act or to require a Town officer or employee to file a disclosure statement pursuant to Subsection A prior to performing any ministerial act.

C.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a Town officer or employee from taking any action that would otherwise be prohibited by Subsection A if this action has general application to all residents or class of residents of the Town.

D.

Any person who knowingly violates this section shall be guilty of a violation.