

## **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CODE OF ETHICS**

*Public service is a public trust. All city officials are stewards of the public trust. They have a responsibility to the citizens of South Padre Island to enforce the City Home Rule Charter and to ensure and enhance public confidence in City government.*

1. A city official shall not engage in any conduct that is incompatible with the City's best interest or that would risk the appearance of impropriety.
2. A city official shall adhere to a high standard of integrity and transparency to ensure public confidence in City Government. Further explanation may be found in the SPI Code of Ethics Handbook.
3. A city official shall not take any official action that he or she knows will affect the economic interest of: the official, a family member, relative, other member of the household, or outside client.
4. A city official shall not use his or her official position to unfairly advance or impede, gain special consideration, treatment, exemptions or advantages of other private interest for any person beyond that which is allowed within the guidelines specified by the SPI Code of Ethics Handbook.
5. A city official shall not solicit, accept or agree to accept, any gift or benefit for: the official, a family member, relative, other member of the household, personal business associate, or outside client, unless the gift is allowed within the guidelines specified by the SPI Code of Ethics Handbook.
6. A city official shall not use his or her position to obtain official information about a person or entity for any self-serving purpose.
7. A city official shall not represent for compensation anyone other than himself or herself or his or her immediate family members before the City, unless that city official was in a comparable trade or business prior to becoming a city official.
8. A city official shall recuse him or herself if he or she is engaged in any: outside employment, relationship, activity, or other associations that could be reasonable expected to impair independence of judgment or faithful performance of official duties.
9. A city official shall complete and maintain a Financial Disclosure Report and submit to the City Secretary.
10. A city official shall apply the "Headline Test" when complex ethical issues are in question. The "Headline Test" considers how a person would feel about the conduct if it were accurately described on the front page of the newspaper. If the story could result in embarrassment the conduct should be reconsidered.

***NOTE: For additional information and details, please consult the Code of Ethics Handbook.***