

ORDINANCE 09-94  
(continued)

(1) Issue an order requiring the violator to cease and desist the violation.

(2) In writing, publicly reprimand the violator for the violations and provide a copy of the reprimand to the executive authority and governing body of the city or city agency with which the violator serves.

(3) In writing, recommend to the executive authority and the governing body that the violator be sanctioned as recommended by the Board, which may include a recommendation for discipline or dismissal, or removal from office.

(4) Issue and order requiring the violator to pay a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.

(5) Refer evidence of criminal violations of this ordinance or state laws to the county attorney or commonwealth's attorney of the jurisdiction for prosecution.

SECTION 26. Appeals. Any person who is found guilty of a violation of any provision of this ordinance by the Board of Ethics may appeal the finding to the circuit court of the county within thirty (30) days after the date of the final action by the Board of Ethics by filing a petition with the court against the Board. The Board shall transmit to the clerk of the court all evidence considered by the Board at the public hearing.

SECTION 27. Limitation of Actions. Except when the period of limitation is otherwise established by state law, an action for a violation of this ordinance must be brought within one (1) year after the violation is discovered.

SECTION 28. Advisory Opinions.

(A) The Board of Ethics may render advisory opinions concerning matters under its jurisdiction, based upon real or hypothetical facts and circumstances, upon its own initiative, or when requested by any officer or employee of the city or a city agency who is covered by this ordinance.

(B) An advisory opinion shall be requested in writing and shall state relevant facts and ask specific questions. The request for an advisory opinion shall remain confidential unless confidentiality is waived, in writing, by the requestor.

(C) The Board may adopt regulations, consistent with the Kentucky Open Records Law, to establish criteria under which it will issue confidential advisory opinions. All other advisory opinions shall be public documents, except that before an advisory opinion is made public, it shall be modified so that the identity of any person associated with the opinion shall not be revealed.

(D) The confidentiality of an advisory opinion may be waived either:

(1) In writing by the person who requested the opinion.

(2) By majority vote of the members of the Board, if a person makes or purports to make public the substance or any portion of an advisory opinion requested by or on behalf of the person. The Board may vote to make public the advisory opinion request and related materials.

(E) A written advisory opinion issued by the Board shall be binding on the Board in any subsequent proceeding concerning the facts and circumstances of the particular case if no intervening

facts or circumstances arise which would change the opinion of the Board if they had existed at the time the opinion was rendered. However, if any fact determined by the Board to be material was

omitted or misstated in the request for an opinion, the Board shall not be bound by the opinion.

(F) A written advisory opinion issued by the Board shall be admissible in the defense of any criminal prosecution or civil proceeding for violations of this ordinance for actions taken in reliance on that opinion.

SECTION 29. Reprisals Against Persons Disclosing Violations Prohibited.

(A) No officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall subject to reprisal, or directly or indirectly use, or threaten to use, any official authority or influence in any manner whatsoever which tends to discourage, restrain, deter, prevent, interfere with, coerce, or discriminate against any person who in good faith reports, discloses, divulges, or otherwise brings to the attention of the Board of Ethics or any other agency or official of the city or the Commonwealth any facts or information relative to an actual or suspected violation of the ordinance.

(B) This section shall not be construed as:

(1) Prohibiting disciplinary or punitive action if an officer or employee of the city or any city agency discloses information which he or she knows:

(a) To be false or which he or she discloses with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity.

(b) To be exempt from required disclosure under the provision of the Kentucky Open Record Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

(c) Is confidential under any other provision of law.

SECTION 30. Penalties.

(A) Except when another penalty is specifically set forth in this ordinance, any officer or employee of the city or any city agency who is found by the Board of Ethics to have violated any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a civil offense and may be subject to a civil fine imposed by the Board of Ethics not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), which may be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender fails to pay the penalty within a prescribed period of time.

(B) In addition to all other penalties which may be imposed under this ordinance, any officer or employee of the city or any city agency who is found by the Board of Ethics to have violated

any provision of this ordinance shall forfeit to the city or the city agency an amount equal to the economic benefit or gain which the officer or employee is determined by the Board to have realized as a result of the violation. The amount of any forfeiture may be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of debt, if the offender fails to pay the amount of the forfeiture within a prescribed period of time.