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BI City Council Ethics Education



Bainbridge Island Ethics Board

9 April 2008

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Overview of the ethics program
 - Purpose and vision of the Ethics Board
 - Duties of the Ethics Board
 - Behaviors covered (and not covered) by the Code of Ethics
- Requests for advisory opinions or waivers
- Next steps for Council's education
- Questions and discussion

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Introduction

- Members of Ethics Board
 - Barbara Kerr, Chair
 - Susan Buckles
 - Michael Piraino
 - Dennis Willerford
 - Jan Heller

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Introduction

- Accomplishments to date
 - Responded to two requests for advisory opinions
 - Presentation to City Council at orientation
 - Production of Brochure
 - Development of Process for processing requests and publicizing opinions
 - Website developed
 - Operating Rules drafted
 - Self-education begun
 - Developed vision, purpose and values statement
 - All-day Planning Meeting
 - Strategic Plan development
 - Development of recommendations for Ethics Program (ongoing)

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Purpose and Vision

- Purpose
 - The Ethics Board will help ensure that City government adheres to the highest standards of public service.
- Vision
 - The Ethics Board will foster a culture of ethical behavior that helps to maintain and strengthen public trust and confidence in the government of the City of Bainbridge Island.

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Duties

- Provide training on the Code of Ethics to elected officials, staff, and contractors
- Issue advisory opinions and waivers
- Write an annual report, with recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for modifications to the Code of Ethics as appropriate

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Covered Behaviors

- Covered individuals
 - Elected officials, City of Bainbridge Island
- Covered Behaviors
 - Prohibited gifts
 - Use of City property
 - Disclosure of confidential information
 - Conflicts of interest

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Examples of Issues Not Covered*

- Whistleblowing
- Civility
- Campaign ethics
- Favoritism, cronyism, and nepotism
- Lobbying
- Relationships between elected officials and staff
- Personal lives of elected officials

• *Some may be covered by other legal or regulatory standards

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Requests

- Advisory opinions
 - From citizens to the Ethics Board about actions of elected officials
 - Generally come to Board anonymously
- Waivers
 - From elected official to the Ethics Board about a covered behavior contemplated by the elected official

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Next Steps

- Quarterly training, ½ hour's duration
- Propose that the next meeting be a “deeper dive” into the Code of Ethics
- Following meetings will present hypothetical cases to Council's for consideration and discussion

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Questions and Discussion

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**REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION
FROM THE
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
BOARD OF ETHICS**

TO: City Clerk

SUBMITTED BY: Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

1. In accordance with Article II(C)(2) of the City Ethics Program and to the extent permitted by law and subject to the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW Chapter 42.56), the complaint, the contents of this request and the identity of the person requesting the advisory opinion (unless otherwise indicated) will be kept confidential. Do you desire that your identity remain confidential with regard to this request? **yes or no** (please circle one)

2. Does the situation for which you are seeking an advisory opinion involve an elected official? **yes or no** (please circle one)

3. Please describe the facts that constitute the violation(s) of the Code of Ethics. ***Do not identify the elected official(s) and other persons and/or entities involved in the past/current situation or potential future action.*** (If necessary, please attach additional pages for description)

4. Section(s) and subsection(s) of the Code of Ethics that are alleged to have been or would be violated ***[optional]***: _____

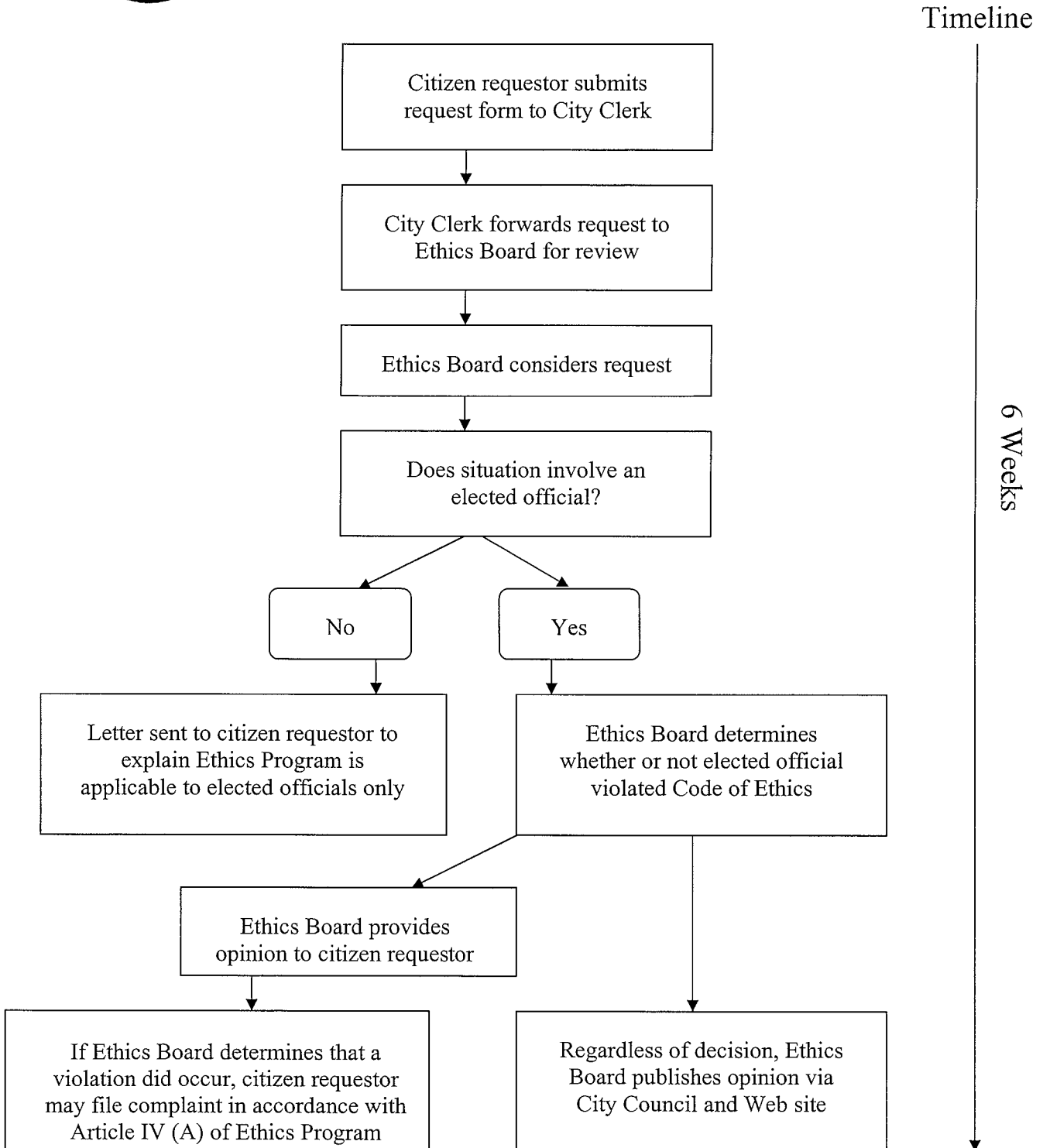
I, _____, hereby certify that the information described above is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

By: _____

Date: _____



ETHICS PROGRAM REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION



**REQUEST FOR WAIVER
BY CURRENT, FORMER OR PROSPECTIVE ELECTED OFFICIAL
FROM THE
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
BOARD OF ETHICS**

TO: City Clerk

SUBMITTED BY: Name: _____
Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

1. Please describe the facts that constitute the actual or potential violation(s) of the Code of Ethics.

2. Section(s) and subsection(s) of the Code of Ethics that may or would be violated: _____

I, _____, hereby certify that the information described above is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

By: _____
Date: _____



ETHICS PROGRAM ELECTED OFFICIAL - REQUEST FOR WAIVER

