

ORDINANCE NO. 990-11-163

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL CREATING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL; REQUIRING ALL CANDIDATES TO SIGN AN ETHICS OATH WHEN THEY OPEN A CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY MAYOR KAPLAN)

WHEREAS, the public judges its government by the way public officials and employees conduct themselves in the posts to which they are elected or appointed; and

WHEREAS, public officers are the trustees and servants of the people, and are at all times amenable to them; and

WHEREAS, the people have a right to expect that every public official will conduct themselves in a manner that will tend to preserve public confidence in and respect for the government they represent; and

WHEREAS, such confidence and respect can best be promoted if every public official will uniformly: (a) treat all citizens with courtesy, impartiality, fairness and equality under the law; and (b) avoid conflicts between their private self-interest and the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the public's trust in its elected officials must start with candidates for public office conducting themselves in an ethical manner during their campaign for elected office; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Lauderhill desires to encourage ethical behavior in campaigns within the City of Lauderhill, and desires to adopt this Code of Ethics for those seeking public office;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Lauderhill that:

Section 1. The Sections, as prescribed herein, shall hereinafter be referenced as the "Lauderhill Ethics Code for Candidates".

Section 2. Candidate shall mean any individual that has formally opened a campaign account for public office, whether a current public official or candidate for public office.

Section 3. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall use any position they hold in a not for profit organization, civic organization, or service organization, or allow others within their control in said organization, to use their position for the candidate's special gain for

public office, thereby abusing their position, and violating the foundations of that organization;

Section 4. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall claim the support of any other person or organization without the express written consent of that person or organization;

Section 5. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall conduct themselves in a moral and ethical manner as to promote the public respect in the elective office.

Section 6. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall respectfully abide by the directions given them by the Lauderhill City Clerk as the City's Supervisor of Elections, and all others authorized as provided by law;

Section 7. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall abide by all State laws and the Laws of the City of Lauderhill, concerning election requirements, including, but not limited to, the posting of signs, and the distance requirements at voting precincts, and shall obey any orders given them by authorized individuals to comply with said laws;

Section 8. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall interfere with the ability of the electorate to vote on election day, including, but not limited to: blocking the entrance to voting precincts; arguing with voters, workers, or other candidates; or displaying any behavior which would bring disrespect to the electorate, or to any others present;

Section 9. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall represent, verbally or in writing, any statements which are untrue or misleading about any other candidate;

Section 10. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall conduct their campaign by creating negative inferences about their opponent, which are false and misleading;

Section 11. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall prior to communicating any information about their opponent, satisfy to a reasonable degree, the truth of the information;

Section 12. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderhill shall seek to avoid "negative campaigns" which would merely cause to discourage the electorate from voting and cast a negative perception to the public concerning the elective process;

Section 13. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall cause their campaigns for office to be conducted with the utmost respect as to promote the positive public interest in the candidates, election and image of the City of Lauderdale;

Section 14. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall use any city employee within their campaign which would be a violation of the City of Lauderdale's policy as to its employees, or a violation of any other law;

Section 15. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall put undue pressure on any city employee, resident or business to assist in their campaign, respecting the rights of that person and that of the public;

Section 16. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall utilize any city equipment in the support of any political campaign unless permitted under law;

Section 17. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall respect and comply with all rights, regulations and orders of private property owners, including condominium and homeowner associations, and if in doubt, shall first inquire from owners and duly authorized representatives as to such rights and regulations;

Section 18. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall post signs on City property, City parks, or City rights of ways;

Section 19. No candidate for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall post signs on private property without first obtaining permission from the property owner or their legal representative;

Section 20. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall instruct and direct their campaign workers and volunteers to conduct themselves in accordance with the Lauderdale Ethics Code for Candidates.

Section 21. All candidates for elective office in the City of Lauderdale shall sign, under oath, a copy of the Lauderdale Ethics Code for Candidates upon the opening of a campaign account, or the enactment of this Ordinance, whichever occurs last.

Section 22. Upon the signing, under oath, of the Lauderdale Ethics Code for Candidates, the Candidate may place in their campaign literature the following statement:

"This campaign for elective office is being conducted in accordance with the Lauderhill Ethics Code for Candidates, and the Candidate (or name of candidate) has complied by signing the prescribed oath."

Section 23. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed as to the extent of such conflict.

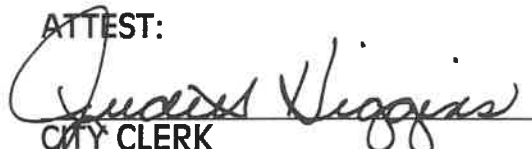
Section 24. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

DATED this 13th day of December, 1999.

PASSED on first reading this 29th day of November, 1999.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on second reading this 13th day of December, 1999.


PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MOTION
SECOND
M. BATES
W. ELFERS
T. JONES
L. MIRSKY
R. KAPLAN

FIRST READING

Elfers

Bates

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

SECOND READING

Elfers

Jones

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

THE LAUDERHILL ETHICS CODE FOR CANDIDATES

OATH OF CANDIDATE FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE

I, _____, as a candidate for elective office within the City of Lauderhill, do hereby, under oath, state that I have read and agree to comply with the Lauderhill Ethics Code for Candidates, under Ordinance No. 990-11-163, the provisions which are hereinafter provided below.

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DATED: _____

CANDIDATE: _____