



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Proposed Ordinance Amendments to Rochester Code of Ordinances Chapter 2-16 Relating to Public Ethics

MEETING DATE:

May 4, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

City Attorney's Office

AGENDA SECTION:

Ordinance Second Readings

PRESENTER:

City Attorney Michael
Spindler-Krage

Action Requested:

Adopting an Ordinance amending Chapter 2-16 of the Rochester Code of Ordinances.

Report Narrative:

At its February 19, 2026, meeting, the Ethical Practices Board approved to submit the following amendments to Sections 2-16-2 and 2-16-7 of City Code relating to Public Ethics. Most of the amendments in these sections are simply changing department names or official titles from lower to upper case to signify the formality of the position or department. While reviewing the Ethics Code, the Board realized that City Agency was not properly defined. After much research and discussion, the Board voted on proposed language defining City Agency.

Section 2-16-7(e)(13) authorizes the Board to make recommendations to the Council for changes to chapter 2-16 which the Board believes would enhance the purposes of the Code of Ethics. The Ethical Practices Board respectfully requests the Council review and adopt the proposed amendments as outlined in the attachment.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Quality Services

Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:

This ordinance amendment is intended to define what a city agency is and to capitalize official titles of the public body and/or various departments as used in a formal context. This helps to clarify which individuals and groups are subject to the ethics ordinance, providing clarity for community members and anyone affiliated with a city agency.

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

January 15, 2026 and February 19, 2026 - Ethical Practices Board meetings

March 16, 2026: Council Meeting - Ordinance content approval.

April 6, 2026: Council Meeting - First reading of Ordinance.

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

There are no fiscal impacts as a result of these amendments.

Alternative Action(s):

There are no alternative actions recommended at this time.

Prepared By:

Jody Houghton

Attachments:

[Cover Page](#)

[Ordinance - Public Ethics Chapter 2-16](#)