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October 27, 2000



RE: Changes in the State's Ethics Laws

Dear City Attorney:

The 2000 Legislature made a number of significant changes to the State's Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, principally regarding the State's financial disclosure laws, gift law, and Executive Branch Lobbyist Registration law. For the most part, these changes will be effective January 1st, 2001, but some have taken effect already.

Enclosed is a memorandum that describes the changes in the law. Two changes are particularly noteworthy at this time. First, please note that the law (since 6/7/2000) requires each person who files limited financial disclosure (Form 1) or full disclosure (Form 6) to file a final disclosure statement within 60 days of leaving his or her public office or position, with the statement covering the period between January 1st and the last day in office or position. The law places the notification burden on each agency head, and allows the agency head to designate someone to be responsible for the notification requirements.

Secondly, please note that the Legislature revised the list of which local appointed board members must file the limited financial disclosure Form 1. Beginning January 1st, only certain types of local boards are covered by the State law, but local governments will have the authority to require other boards to file, as a "local option." We are in the process of notifying the designated "disclosure coordinator" for each city which boards we believe should continue to file under the new law and which ones we believe should be removed from the disclosure list. You may be asked by your municipality to assist in reviewing this process and also may be asked about the "local option" process to impose the filing requirement on local boards.

If our office can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Bonnie J. Williams  
Executive Director

Enclosure

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CITY COMMISSION  
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