

ETHICS MATTERS



City of Dallas

October, 2023

Ethics Tip Hotline: Great for the City and Open for Business – So Let's Give It a Name

The Inspector General Division (IGD), the watchdog for ethics in city government, has been receiving complaints using a 24/7 confidential hotline since opening in 2022. The hotline is run by a third party to ensure confidentiality of the tip and anonymity for the reporter. Every complaint made through the hotline is reviewed by the IGD's investigators. Most complaints come to the IGD via this hotline. To promote the hotline and come up with a name for it, the IGD is having a hotline naming contest.

The hotline naming contest is running through October 18, 2023. The five guidelines for this hotline naming contest are that entries be: clear, clever, concise, clean, and copyright-free. To prime your creative pump: here are a few key words associated with the IGD: Code of Ethics, 12A, conflicts of interest, prevention, fraud, waste, abuse, corruption, misconduct, investigation, hearing, sanctions, right, wrong, morals, behavior, duty, purpose, principle, standards, confidentiality, anonymous, benefit, conflict, and violations.

Submissions can be made by email to jordan.hamilton@dallas.gov. The deadline is close of business October 25. The winning entry will be announced during Ethics Week in November and will receive a prize at that event – the coveted Ethics Cup, an ethics themed coffee cup, reminding all of us to stay alert!



There's a new ethics game with a mystery twist – can you beat it?

The IGD has created a weekly game that combines a question about ethics with clues about an impending dastardly deed. It's a great chance to dip your toe into ethics and have a little fun deciphering the clue. Correct answers to the ethics question will be tallied over the year and the winner for most correct answers will win a prize!



The mystery game is centered on the efforts of Inspector JP working 24/7 to catch Fritz, known as "the Canary." Fritz got that nickname because he loves to leave clues for JP about where he will strike next. Our job is to help JP decipher where the Canary will land next so we can cage him for keeps. To get the clue, answer the ethics question in the weekly "Catch the Canary" email.



If you are motivated by reading these exciting developments, stay tuned as more is to come each month. Things to look forward to include an essay contest, an ethics and equity week, and opportunities to dig deeper into certain topics through training events. **Baron Eliason**, and the CMO ethics officer **Hai Tran**, would love to hear from you about ethics in the city. Also, feel free to request a special training event in your department on any part of the Code of Ethics by contacting baron.eliason@dallas.gov.



The New Code Summaries Are Here!

The one-page, plain language guide to the Code of Ethics (Code) is available now on the inspector general's website. The goal is to make the Code easy to understand and apply. All city officials, employees, and people doing business with the city are required to know and comply with the Code. This resource is a great place to start.

In addition, the new amendments guide to the Code is also available. This resource covers all the significant changes that were made to the Code this summer.

This is all a part of the larger Integrity Officer Program, which is designed to reinforce ethical conduct and the requirements of the Code. This program includes training when requested and many opportunities to learn and grow in ethics that are under development by the Chief Integrity Officer, Baron Eliason. Like the one-pager, Baron is here to help you with ethics so shoot him a question!

How to Get Published Now: the 2023 Ethics Essay Contest

CMO Ethics and the IGD are pleased to announce the 2023 Ethics Essay Contest. The objective is to promote a culture of ethics and engage employees to tell stories that make them feel proud to be a part of the City of Dallas.

The rules are simple. In 500 words or less, in the form of prose, a poem, or an essay:


- (1) Write about a time when you or your team faced an ethical challenge or dilemma?
- (2) What was the situation? (Give some context.) How did you or your team resolve it?
- (3) What positive impact did you or your team's commitment to ethical conduct have on the city and the city's reputation?
- (4) How does that make you feel proud to be an employee at the City of Dallas?

For ideas and inspirations, please reference the City of Dallas Code of Ethics 12-A

Due date: Oct. 15, 2023.

Submit entry to: DallasEthics@dallas.gov ;
baron.eliason@dallas.gov ;
hai.tran@dallas.gov ; rachel.craig@dallas.gov

Prizes: Winning essays will be published on the Ethics Hub, and contest winners will receive prizes: a book about culture (the winners can choose from a list), and an Ethics coffee mug!



Upcoming Events: Ethics Week begins November 13th and will conclude with a special event at City Hall. Be on the lookout for more details about this event.