



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney St.
Denton, Texas 76201
www.cityofdenton.com

Meeting Agenda

Board of Ethics

Monday, June 2, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Work Session Room

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF ETHICS

Citizens are also able to participate in the following way (NOTE: Other than public hearings, citizens are only able to comment one time per agenda item; citizens cannot use both methods to comment on a single agenda item. Public comments are not held for work session reports.):

- eComment – On Friday, May 30, 2025, the agenda was posted online at <https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>. Once the agenda is posted, a link to make virtual comments using the eComment module will be made available next to the meeting listing on the Upcoming Events Calendar. Within eComment, citizens may indicate support or opposition and submit a brief comment about a specific agenda item. Comments may be submitted up until the start of the meeting at which time the ability to make an eComment will be closed. Similar to when a citizen submits a white card to indicate their position on an item, the eComments will be sent directly to members of the Board of Ethics and recorded by the Secretary.

Members review comments received in advance of the meeting and take that public input into consideration prior to voting on an agenda item. The Chair will announce the number of Comment Cards submitted in support or opposition to an item during the public comment period. Comments will not be read during the meeting. The Secretary will reflect the number of comments submitted in favor/opposition to an item, the registrant's name, address, and (summary of) comments within the Minutes of the Meeting, as applicable.

After determining that a quorum is present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, will convene in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. [BOE25-024](#) Request for Advisory Opinion No. 25-001, received May 20, 2025, from Commissioner Sherri McDade concerning potential conflicts of interest and recusal recommendation.

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)
[Exhibit 2 - Received Request.pdf](#)

NOTE: The Board of Ethics reserves the right to adjourn into a Closed Meeting on any item on its Open Meeting agenda consistent with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, or as otherwise allowed by law.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the official website (<https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>) and bulletin board at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas, on Friday, May 30, 2025, in advance of the 72-hour posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

NOTE: THE CITY OF DENTON'S DESIGNATED PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, IF REQUESTED AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. PLEASE CALL THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 940-349-8309 OR USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR THE DEAF (TDD) BY CALLING 1-800-RELAY-TX SO THAT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED.



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Legislation Text

File #: BOE25-024, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION

Request for Advisory Opinion No. 25-001, received May 20, 2025, from Commissioner Sherri McDade concerning potential conflicts of interest and recusal recommendation.



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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: City Auditor's Office

CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach

DATE: June 2, 2025

SUBJECT

Request for Advisory Opinion No. 25-001, received May 20, 2025, from Commissioner Sherri McDade concerning potential conflicts of interest and recusal recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The Ethics Ordinance (i.e., City of Denton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI) Sec. 2-278, allows any City Official to request an Advisory Opinion on a question of compliance with the Ordinance. A request is forwarded to a three-member Panel of the Board of Ethics, which must issue a written Advisory Opinion within 30 calendar days.

Per the Board of Ethics' Rules of Procedure, an Advisory Opinion should be based on the facts presented in writing by the requestor without additional material being considered. The Panel shall issue the written opinion based on the majority position of the Panel. The Advisory Opinion may contain conclusions and recommendations regarding how the Ethics Ordinance applies (if at all) to a particular situation or behavior.

DISCUSSION

On May 20, 2025, the City Auditor received an Advisory Opinion request from Commissioner Sherri McDade regarding potential conflicts of interest that may arise due to her employment as CEO of Denton Housing Authority.

Based on the received request, the Board of Ethics has been asked to determine if Commissioner McDade's employment would require her to recuse or abstain from the following:

1. Any Deliberation or vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves the Authority in any way, no matter how remote, or which purports to be affordable housing;
2. Any discussion with City of Denton staff or other City Officials (e.g., Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City Council Members, etc.) on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves the Authority in any way, no matter how remote, or which purports to be affordable housing;
3. Any Deliberation or vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves any developer, vendor, or other entity with which the Authority has or has had any business relationship;
4. Any discussion with City of Denton staff or other City Officials (e.g., Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City Council Members, etc.) on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves any developer, vendor, or other entity with which the Authority has or has had any business relationship;

5. Any Deliberation or vote of the Planning & Zoning Commission on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project, which involves multifamily or affordable housing; and
6. Any discussion with City of Denton staff or other City Officials (e.g., Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City Council Members, etc.) on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project, which involves multifamily or affordable housing.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

None.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Received Request

Respectfully submitted:
Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228
City Auditor

May 15, 2025

Madison Rorschach
City Auditor
City of Denton, Texas
215 E. McKinney St., Suite 500
Denton, TX 76201

Hand Delivered: above address

Re: Request for Advisory Opinion Pursuant to Section 2-278 of the City of Denton
Ethics Code

Dear Mr. Rorschach,

Pursuant to Section 2-278 of the City's Ethics Code, I would like to request an advisory opinion as regards potential conflicts of interest that may arise with respect to my employment as the CEO of Denton Housing Authority during my term of service on the Planning and Zoning Committee.

I understand my obligation that in the event that any issue before the P&Z board arises in connection with a property in which DHA or its Affiliates have an ownership interest or a prospective ownership interest, I will disclose the conflict and recuse myself from consideration. It has been alleged that my obligations extend beyond this requirement and include recusal or abstainment from the following:

- 1) Any deliberation or vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves the Authority in any way, no matter how remote, or which purports to be affordable housing;
- 2) Any discussion with City of Denton staff or other city officials (e.g. Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City Council Members, etc.) on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves the Authority in any way, no matter how remote, or which purports to be affordable housing;
- 3) Any deliberation or vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves any

developer, vendor, or other entity with which the Authority has or has had any business relationship;

- 4) Any discussion with City of Denton staff or other city officials (e.g. Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City Council Members, etc.) on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves any developer, vendor, or other entity with which the Authority has or has had any business relationship;
- 5) Any deliberation or vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves multifamily or affordable housing;
- 6) Any discussion with City of Denton staff or other city officials (e.g. Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City Council Members, etc.) on any item, project, proposed development project, or potential development project which involves multifamily or affordable housing;

May you please advise on the above six categories specifically and any requirements regarding my obligations under state law and the City's ethics code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherri McDade", written in a cursive style.

Sherri McDade

Commissioner

City of Denton Planning and Zoning Commission