



DENTON CITY CHARTER AND ETHICS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

DENTON CITY CHARTER

- ▶ Ethics Laws and Regulations in Denton are addressed in:
 - ▶ Various State and Federal Laws
 - ▶ Denton City Charter
 - ▶ Resolution No. R2006-003
 - ▶ Resolution No. R2009-015

DENTON CITY CHARTER

- ▶ Home Rule Charters – Consistent with State and Federal Law
- ▶ Charter = “Local Constitution”
- ▶ Enacted by the Electorate and Represent the Highest Law of the Locality
- ▶ Ordinances Must be Consistent with the Charter

DENTON CITY CHARTER

- ▶ Denton's Home Rule Charter – February 24, 1959
- ▶ Section 14.04 Personal Interest – Imposes LGC 171 conflict of interest standards on Local Officials (December 11, 1979)
- ▶ Section 14.05 Nepotism – Imposes Limitations on appointment and employment of individuals related to members of Council (August 28, 2006)

DENTON CITY CHARTER

Charter should set the foundation on which any
Ethics Ordinance is based!

Why? Any ordinance provision inconsistent to
the Charter is subject to nullification.

DENTON CITY CHARTER

- ▶ Model City Charter, A Publication of the National Civic League, Eighth Edition, 2011
- ▶ NCL Model Noted with Favor by the Texas Municipal League (TML)

DENTON CITY CHARTER

- ▶ NCL Model Charter sets the foundation for an Ethics Ordinance by:
 - ▶ Requiring the City Council to enact an Ordinance establishing Conflict standards (official capacity standards; acceptance of gifts; use of confidential information; appearances on behalf of private interests; public disclosure of finances, hiring of relatives, accepting employment with an employer with whom the official acted in an official capacity, etc.)
 - ▶ Requiring the City Council to establish by Ordinance an Independent Ethics Board and to set the qualifications, jurisdiction, and duties of the Board
 - ▶ Requiring the City Council to set aside necessary funds in support of the Ethics Board

DENTON CITY CHARTER

- ▶ Charter is Amended by Vote of the Electorate
- ▶ Charter Committee Studies Provisions for Possible Amendment
- ▶ Other Charter Provisions of Interest?
 - ▶ Clarification of Residency
 - ▶ Salary for City Council
 - ▶ Others?