

# 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?