

ORDINANCE NO: 12**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RECEIPT OF GIFTS OR GRATUITIES****12.1 Purpose**

The proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policy be made in the proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that the public has confidence in the integrity of its government. In recognition of these goals, there is established this Ordinance for all Town officials and employees, whether elected or appointed. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct relating to gifts and gratuities for all such officials and employees by setting forth those acts or actions that are incompatible with the best interests of the Town. The Town Board believes that an ordinance relating to receipt of gifts or gratuities for the guidance of Town officials and employees will help avoid conflicts which are substantial and material between one's personal interests and their public responsibilities.

12.2 State Law Adopted

The provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes related to the Code of Ethics for Local Government Officials, Employees, and Candidates, Wis. Stat. Secs. 19.42, 19.46, and 19.59, as they may be amended or renumbered from time to time, are hereby adopted by reference in this Ordinance as if fully set forth.

12.3 Gifts and Gratuities

- A. No Town official or employee may solicit or accept any gift, favor or thing having more than nominal value from any person who, to his or her knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the Town. Nor shall any such official or employee accept any gift, favor or thing of value that may tend to influence him or her in the discharge of his or her duties or grant in the discharge of his or her duties any improper favor, service or thing of value. Favors shall include, but are not limited to admission tickets to entertainment events, restaurant meals, transportation for personal purposes and providing accommodations at a hotel or resort.
- B. Absent other unusual circumstances, the following actions of Town officials or employees shall not be deemed to be a violation of this Ordinance:
1. Receipt of a gift that is an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value.
 2. Receipt of mementos (i.e. coffee cups, pens, paperweights, etc.), provided the value received does not exceed \$20.00 and that distribution is of a general nature.
 3. Attendance or participation at ceremonial events (i.e. groundbreaking, grand openings, receptions, as well as business lunches, outings and conferences) provided there is no intent to influence the Town official or employee and the value received does not exceed \$30.00.

- 4. Attendance or participation at events or functions sponsored by the Town where there is no intent to influence the Town official or employee.
- C. Gifts or favors received under unusual circumstances not addressed under this Ordinance shall be referred to the Town Board for recommended disposition. Any person subject to this Ordinance who becomes aware that he or she is or has been offered any gift, the acceptance of which would constitute a violation of this subsection, shall disclose the details surrounding said offer to their supervisor or the Town Board. Failure to comply with this reporting requirement shall constitute an offense under this Ordinance.

12.4 Town Policy

The receipt of any gift, gratuity, or anything of value as denoted above is contrary to the public policy of the Town of Grand Rapids.

This ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and publication as provided by law.

HISTORY

Declaration/Ordinance/Resolution No

Dated

RESOLUTION NO:

2005-08	5-February-1974
2006-07	13-September-2005
2019-12	23-May-2006
	9-April-2019