

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 5th, 2025

A special meeting of the Local Ethics Commission was held on March 5th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chair Daley (Virtual,) Commissioner Ignoffo, and Commissioner Degroff.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst Luke Masella, Village Attorney Lance Malina

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Degroff to allow Chair Daley to participate virtually. Seconded by Commissioner Ignoffo.

AYES: Commissioner Ignoffo and Commissioner Degroff.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Corey Gimbel made a public comment requesting documents related to the previous meeting.

Commissioner DeGroff noted having discussed the format of the documents with Mr. Gimbel.

Administrator Walsh provided background on the Ethics Commission's communication to the Village Board, including its request to pause any further discussions regarding the Economic Development Commission complaint.

Margie Cekander made a public comment regarding her recent complaint submitted to the Ethics Commission. She encouraged the Commission to take its time in reviewing and updating the ethics ordinance to ensure it is as effective as possible. Ms. Cekander also raised concerns about discrepancies between a previous draft of the ordinance and the current version. She then raised concerns about how her complaint was handled by the Village

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 19TH, 2025

Local Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
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A MOTION was made by Commissioner Degroff and SECONDED by Commissioner Ignoffo to approve the meeting minutes of the February 19th, 2025, meeting of the Local Ethics Commission as presented.

AYES: Commissioner Ignoffo and Chair Daley.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Degroff.

Motion Passes.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Potential Recommendation on Amendments to the Village's Ethics Ordinance.

Chair Daley, Commissioners Ignoffo and DeGroff, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, and Village Attorney Lance Malina reviewed the proposed changes to the existing ethics code submitted by members of the Ethics Commission.

Among other matters, the group discussed provisions of the code pertaining to anonymity, the filing and handling of complaints, the number of meetings required to review a complaint, the role of staff, and mandatory reporting responsibilities. The Commission also underscored the need for consistency and uniformity throughout the code.

Commissioner DeGroff noted that she may present additional language at the next meeting regarding anonymity and clarifying which Village personnel have access to complaints.

The Commission agreed to increase the fines in the Ordinance, but Village Attorney Malina noted that he would have to confirm the legal limit.

The Commission discussed whether anonymous complaints would be allowed.

The Commission agreed that all complaints will be shared with all commissioners upon receipt.

Chair Daley stated she would revise the draft document and distribute it to others to edit further in advance of the next Commission meeting.

The Commission tentatively set the next meeting for April 3rd at 10:00am.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

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None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ignoffo and SECONDED by Commissioner Degroff to adjourn the March 5th 2025, meeting of the Local Ethics Commission at 7:59pm.

AYES: Commissioner Ignoffo, Commissioner Degroff, and Chair Daley.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted:



Luke Masella
Deputy Village Clerk/Management Analyst

Approved:

Peggy Daley, Chair
Local Ethics Commission

Date