



ETHICS SAN MATEO

DEDICATED TO TRUTH, TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICAL CONDUCT IN CITY GOVERNMENT

A WIN for San Mateo Residents!

There is great news for Ethics San Mateo's members, as well as for all residents of the City of San Mateo.

Ethics San Mateo began its mission almost three years ago, in 2022. The concept was simple; ensure the residents of San Mateo are served by city officials according to good ethical standards. The execution of our mission, not so easy! As challenging as it has been, we kept our eyes on the goal.

We've had some small successes, but May 2025 will be considered as a huge milestone month of accomplishments in our history. Two significant events occurred: The addition of questions regarding ethics for commissioner interviews, and the addition of enforcement sections for the Code of Conduct, now in draft form.

Please note that the supplied Meeting Details are not official minutes of the two meetings summarized, nor are they a complete report of these meetings. As the city did not record these sessions, and has not published the official minutes, We cannot fact-check memories. Several ESM members attended both meetings. We welcome any additions or corrections.

Summary of Meeting Results

The interviews for upcoming Planning Commission openings included a question about the Code of Conduct and Ethics Standards. The panel decided not to include one current commissioner, who was re-applying for his position, on the recommendation list due to ethical misconduct.

The City Council approved a draft of revisions to the Code of Conduct to include enforcement and consequences for violations. Additional rules are being considered to deal with unacceptable conduct by council members, commissioners, and board members.

Conclusion

We believe that Ethics San Mateo can take significant credit for pushing our leadership to take strong action to improve the trust San Mateo residents have in their city governance. We want to recognize our current City Council for embracing that ethical conduct results in trust, which is key to effective governance. Ethics San Mateo especially thanks our two new council members, Danielle Cwirko-Godycki and Nicole Fernandez, for championing these positive actions.

Details about both the Planning Commission candidate interviews and Council Code of Conduct workshop are included on the same web page as this document.

The collective voice of Ethics San Mateo's membership carried our message to the City Council. They have begun to listen, to take us seriously, and to take action.