

**BOARD OF ETHICS  
PANEL MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2019**

After determining that a quorum of the Panel is present, a Panel of the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, consisting of Lara Tomlin, Don Cartwright and Karen McDaniels, convened to conduct a Preliminary Assessment, in compliance with Denton Ethics Ordinance Section 2-280, on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

**PRESENT:** Lara Tomlin, Temporary Chairperson, Don Cartwright, Karen McDaniels

**STAFF PRESENT:** Umesh Dalal, City Auditor, Betsy Snodgrass, Administrative Assistant

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**OTHERS:** Herbert Prouty, Outside Counsel representing the Alan Bojorquez Firm, Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe, Pati Haworth

Meeting was brought to order at 5:31 PM

**ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. Ethics Complaint No. 19-002 filed March 15, 2019, concerning alleged violations of Ethics Ordinance Section 2-272 and 2-273.

Lara Tomlin introduced the item for discussion as EC19-002, a complaint filed by Ron Johnson against Council Member Deb Armintor and stated that the Panel must decide if the Complaint is actionable or baseless in scope as defined by the Ethics Code. Tomlin then explained that the two criteria considered in making their decision are whether the incident stated in the Complaint involved a pending matter (Ethics Ordinance Section 2-272) and whether a conflict of interest existed (Ethics Ordinance Section 2-273) regarding that pending matter. On the first criteria, Tomlin stated that yes, she believes that a pending matter did exist under the Ethics Code and asked the Panel for comments.

Don Cartwright referred to the Advisory Opinion, pertaining to voting on the selection of a UNT facility as a polling location from February 14, 2019 (AO19-002), adding that the same incident and criteria were used in that decision affirming that there was a violation of the Ethics Code. Tomlin stated that, in reading Johnson's complaint, there was a pending matter.

Karen McDaniels noted that the Code is very specific and that no exceptions can be made and suggested that the City Council address changes to the Ethics Ordinance.

Tomlin continued with the second criteria addressing conflict of interest. She stated that the \$600.00 in gross annual income applied in this instance, as defined in Ethics Code Section 2-273 (a)(3), as Armintor is an employee of UNT. McDaniels agreed.

The Panel unanimously agreed that the Complaint is actionable based on the defined violations in the Ethics Code.

Tomlin then read from the Ethics Ordinance: “Actionable Complaints shall be returned to the Chairperson for listing on an agenda for a public hearing.”

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM