

**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 Deborah Cosimo, convened to conduct a Preliminary Assessment, in compliance with Denton Ethics Ordinance Section 2-280, on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 5:45 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Lara Tomlin, Don Cartwright, Deborah Cosimo

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 5:45 PM

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Ethics Complaint No. 19-003 filed March 15, 2019, concerning alleged violations of Ethics Ordinance Section 2-272 and 2-273.

Lara Tomlin began with an introduction of the item for discussion and consideration: EC19-003 a complaint filed by Ron Johnson against Council Member Paul Meltzer. Tomlin stated that the Panel is to determine if the Complaint scope is actionable or baseless as defined in the City of Denton's Ethics Ordinance. The two criteria in making the determination 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) in relation to that pending matter. All Panel members agreed after review of the Complaint that a pending matter did exist. Tomlin stated that Meltzer's wife is employed at UNT and that a previous Advisory Opinion (AO19-002), pertaining to voting on the selection of a UNT facility as a polling location, had been issued on this matter. All Panel members agreed that a conflict of interest did exist as referenced in the Complaint.

The Panel voted unanimously that the accepted Complaint is actionable and that a violation of the Ethics Code did occur. Tomlin stated that since a unanimous decision affirmed that the Complaint is actionable, it will be referred to the Board of Ethics Chairperson to be placed on a public meeting agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.