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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

Memorandum

DATE March 6, 2009

TO The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager and Assistant City Managers
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary

SUBJECT Political Activities of City Council Members and Other City Officials in Connection
with the May 9, 2009 City Council Election

The following rules govern political activities of city council members and other city officials in connection with the May 9, 2009 City Council Election.

City Council Members

1. A council member may use his/her name and official city title in support of or in opposition to a city council candidate.
2. A council member may be a member of a political committee that is supporting or opposing a city council candidate.
3. A council member may not serve as a campaign treasurer for a city council candidate.
4. A council member may use his/her name and title in connection with a city council election, except that a council member cannot receive or solicit campaign contributions for a city council candidate either in his/her individual or official capacity.
5. A council member may serve on a steering committee that is developing a fundraising plan for a city council candidate, but may not use his/her title for purposes of this activity.
6. A council member may list his/her name, but not official city title, on printed materials of a steering committee that is soliciting campaign contributions for a city council candidate, but only when the committee as a whole is listed.
7. A council member may attend a fundraising activity for a city council candidate and speak at that activity, provided he/she does not solicit or receive campaign contributions for the candidate. In other words, the council member may be a spokesperson for the city council candidate, but may not be a fundraiser or host a fundraising event.

8. A council member may make personal contributions to a city council candidate.
9. A council member may place city council campaign signs in his/her yard and on the premises of his/her home.
10. A council member may place city council campaign bumper stickers on his/her personal vehicle.
11. A council member should not, directly or indirectly, induce or attempt to induce any city employee to: (A) participate in an election campaign, (B) contribute to a city council candidate or political committee, (C) engage in any other political activity relating to a particular candidate, or (D) refrain from engaging in any lawful political activity. A general statement merely encouraging another person to vote does not violate this provision.
12. A council member may not use city facilities, personnel, equipment, or supplies for political purposes, except to the extent and in accordance with the terms that those city resources are generally available to the public.

Other City Officials

A "city official" includes council appointed employees and members of all council appointed boards and commission.

1. A city official may use his/her name, but not title, in support of or in opposition to a city council candidate.
2. A city official may not serve as a campaign treasurer for a city council candidate.
3. A city official may not solicit or receive campaign contributions for a city council candidate.
4. A city official may serve on a steering committee that is developing a fundraising plan for a city council candidate, but may not use his/or title for purposes of this activity.
5. A city official may list his/her name, but not official city title, on printed materials of a steering committee that is soliciting campaign contributions for a city council candidate, but only when the committee as a whole is listed.
6. A city official may attend a fundraising activity for a city council candidate and speak at that activity, provided he/she does not solicit or receive campaign contributions for the candidate and does not use his/her title. In other words, the city official may be a

spokesperson for the city council candidate, but may not be a fundraiser or host a fundraising event.

7. A city official may make personal contributions to a city council candidate.
8. A city official may place city council campaign signs in his/her yard and on the premises of his/her home.
9. A city official may place city council campaign bumper stickers on his/her personal vehicle.
10. A city official should not, directly or indirectly, induce or attempt to induce any city employee to: (A) participate in an election campaign, (B) contribute to a city council candidate or political committee, (C) engage in any other political activity relating to a particular candidate, or (D) refrain from engaging in any lawful political activity. A general statement merely encouraging another person to vote does not violate this provision.
11. A city official may not use city facilities, personnel, equipment, or supplies for political purposes, except to the extent and in accordance with the terms that those city resources are generally available to the public.

Please distribute this memorandum as you deem appropriate. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me.



Jesús Toscano, Jr.
Administrative Assistant City Attorney

cc: Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
C. Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Office
Helena A. Thompson, Mayor and Council Office