

Subject:	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
Section:	PPG# 2441
Chapter:	Personnel
Effective Date:	7/1/98

POLICY

Conflicts of Interest

Except as permitted by law, commissioners or staff members shall not sell or barter anything to the department or to a contractor supplying the department.

Commissioners or staff members shall not accept or seek for others, any service, information, or thing of value on more favorable terms than those granted to the public generally, from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the department.

Commissioners or staff members shall not accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, favor, loan, retainer, entertainment or other thing of monetary value from any person, firm or corporation having dealings with the department when such acceptance would conflict, or create the appearance of a conflict, with the performance of the staff member's duties. A conflict or appearance of a conflict shall be deemed to exist where a reasonable and prudent person would believe that such was given for the purpose of obtaining special consideration or influence. If a commissioner or staff member is given or offered any gift, favor, loan, retainer, entertainment or other thing of monetary value under circumstances, which could reasonably be construed to create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, the commissioner or staff member shall immediately report such activity to the chief. The chief shall in turn inform the board of commissioners.

While the board of commissioners recognizes that its interests are best served when good relations are developed between the department and others with whom the department may have business dealings, the department discourages commissioners or staff members from accepting any gifts or benefits, which have an extrinsic value. The department does permit commissioners or staff members to accept an occasional lunch or its equivalent.

Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge. However, the district, subject to the approval of the chief, does permit a commissioner, paid staff member or volunteer to utilize the district's purchasing power that is granted by vendors to secure items or services that will enhance the performance of the commissioner, paid staff member or volunteer. The vendor must bill the staff member or volunteer for such items or services.

REFERENCES

Cross Reference: Policy 1512 Conflicts of Interest – Board of
Commissioners
Legal Reference: RCW 42.18 Executive conflict of interest act