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ORDINANCE NO. XXXX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS; ADDING DIVISION 4. CODE OF ETHICS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES AND REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of North Richland Hills, Texas (“the City”) is a home rule city acting under its power adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of North Richland Hills, Texas desires to establish guidelines for the conduct of city officials; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Council members, and appointed members of the boards, commissions, and committees of the city should be independent and impartial and responsible to the citizens of North Richland Hills; and

WHEREAS, the City Council appointed an Ad-Hoc Council Committee to review and propose guidelines and an ethics ordinance for city officials; and

WHEREAS, the Ad-Hoc Council Committee presented their findings at the February 23, 2026, and April 13, 2026, work session meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: The City Council hereby finds the recitals above to be true and correct, and such recitals are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance as if written herein.

SECTION 2: The Code of Ordinances of the City of North Richland Hills, Texas is hereby amended by amending Chapter 2, Article II, adding Division 4. Code of Ethics to read as follows:

42 **“DIVISION 4. CODE OF ETHICS**

43 **Sec. 2-100. Purpose.**

44 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the city that the proper operation of democratic
45 government requires that public officials be independent, impartial and responsible only
46 to the people of the city; that no officer shall permit any interest, financial or otherwise,
47 direct or indirect, or engagement in any business, transaction, or professional activity to
48 conflict with the proper discharge of such person's duties in the public interest; that public
49 office not be used for personal gain; and that the City Council at all times shall be
50 maintained as a nonpartisan body. To implement such a policy, the City Council deems
51 it advisable to enact a code of ethics for officials, as defined in this division, whether
52 elected or appointed, paid or unpaid, to serve not only as a guide for official conduct of
53 the city's public servants, but also as a basis for discipline for those who refuse to abide
54 by its terms, the overriding interest being that such officers of the city shall at all times
55 strive to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

56 **Sec. 2-101. Title; application.**

- 57 a) This division shall be known as the code of ethics.
- 58 b) This code of ethics shall apply to all officials as defined in this division.
- 59 c) This code of ethics does not apply to employees, including those individuals employed
60 on a full-time, part-time, or internship basis (including those who may serve on a city
61 board, committee, or commission) nor to independent contractors of the city. The
62 standards of conduct for employees are governed by the City of North Richland Hills
63 Personnel Policies and the City Charter.
- 64 d) This code of ethics applies to members of all city boards, commissions, and
65 committees as defined in this division, except when such member is an independent
66 contractor of the city or a city employee, including an individual employed on a full-
67 time, part-time, or internship basis.
- 68 e) This code of ethics applies to the conduct or actions of public officers, as defined in
69 this division, which occurs in whole or in part after the date of adoption of this division.
- 70 f) This code of ethics applies to officers only while such persons hold such position or
71 office.

72 **Sec. 2-102. Definitions.**

73 The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the
74 meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a
75 different meaning:

76 *Benefit* means anything reasonably regarded as pecuniary or economic gain or pecuniary
77 or economic advantage, including benefit to any other person in whose welfare the
78 beneficiary has a direct and substantial interest.

79 *Business entity* means any person, entity, corporation (whether for-profit or nonprofit),
80 general or limited partnership, sole proprietorship, joint venture, unincorporated

81 association or firm, institution, trust, foundation, holding company, joint-stock company,
82 receivership, or other entity recognized by law, whether or not organized for profit, which
83 has an economic interest, or seeking such, in conducting business with the city. Business
84 entity also includes any business entity that represents a party conducting or seeking to
85 conduct business with the city.

86 *City* means the City of North Richland Hills, Texas.

87 *City Council / Council* means the governing body (mayor and council members) of the
88 city.

89 *Confidential information* means any information to which an official has access in such
90 person's official capacity which may not be disclosed to the public except pursuant to
91 state and/or federal law and which is not otherwise a matter of public record or public
92 knowledge. Confidential information includes the following information, however
93 transmitted: (i) any information from a meeting closed to the public pursuant to the Texas
94 Open Meetings Act or other law regardless of whether disclosure violates the Texas Open
95 Meetings Act or Texas Public Information Act; (ii) any information protected by attorney
96 client, attorney work product, or other applicable legal privilege; and (iii) any information
97 deemed confidential by law.

98 *Contract* means any lease, claim, account or demand against or agreement with any
99 entity or person, whether express or implied, executed or executory, oral or written.

100 *Corporation* means any corporation that has a board of directors appointed in whole or in
101 part by the City Council that is operating under the direct authority of or subject to the
102 direct control of the City Council.

103 *Council member* means an elected/appointed officer in Places 1-7.

104 *Employee* means any person employed by the city, including those individuals on a part-
105 time or internship basis, but does not include independent contractors.

106 *Gift* means anything of value, regardless of form, offered or given in the absence of
107 adequate and lawful consideration. It does not include the receipt or acceptance of
108 campaign contributions which are regulated by federal, state and/or local laws or
109 ordinances.

110 *Knowingly* means a person acts knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to the nature
111 of the person's conduct or to circumstances surrounding the conduct when the person is
112 aware of the nature of the conduct or that the circumstances exist. A person acts
113 knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to a result of the person's conduct whether
114 the person is aware that the conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result.

115 *Officer or official* means any member of the City Council and any appointed member of a
116 city board, commission or committee established by ordinance, Charter, state law or
117 otherwise, on a temporary or permanent basis, operating either under the direct or indirect
118 authority or subject to either the direct or indirect control of the City Council.

119 *Relative* means any person related to an officer within the second degree by
120 consanguinity or affinity. This relationship includes the spouse, parents, children,
121 stepchildren, father and mother-in-law, or son and daughter-in-law, grandparents,
122 grandchildren, sisters and brothers of the officer.

123 *Sergeant at Arms* is a designated officer, the Chief of Police, or his designee assigned to:
124 maintain order during City Council meetings, enforce rules of decorum and procedure,
125 provide security, control access, and remove disruptive individuals, support procedural
126 flow, and aiding the presiding officer.

127 *Special privileges* means a right, advantage or favor of or for a particular person, occasion
128 or purpose not otherwise available to others.

129 *Substantial interest* means: (i) the ownership of ten percent or more of the voting stock or
130 shares of a business entity; (ii) the ownership of ten percent or more, or \$15,000.00 or
131 more of the fair market value of a business entity; or (iii) funds received from the business
132 entity exceed ten percent of the person's gross income for the previous year, and action
133 on the matter involving the business entity will have a special economic effect on the
134 business entity that is distinguishable from the effect on the public. It is expressly provided
135 herein that an investment or ownership in a publicly held company, in an amount less
136 than \$15,000.00 does not constitute a substantial interest. Substantial interest in real
137 property means the person has an interest in the real property that is equitable or legal
138 ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500.00 or more; and it is reasonably foreseeable
139 that an action on a matter involving the real property will have a special economic effect
140 on the value of the real property distinguishable from its effect on the public. (Ownership
141 includes any partnership, joint or corporate ownership or any equitable or beneficial
142 interest as a beneficiary of a trust.) An officer is considered to have a substantial interest
143 under this code of ethics if a person related to the officer in the second degree of
144 consanguinity or affinity has a substantial interest under this code of ethics.

145 **Sec. 2-103. Standards of conduct.**

146 No officer of the city or a relative thereof shall:

147 a) Have a financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract with the city, nor shall such
148 person be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in the sale to the city of any land,
149 or rights or interest in any land, materials, supplies or service. The "financial interest"
150 contemplated under this section, the City's Code of Ordinances, and under the City
151 Charter, Article XVIII, Section 13 requires that such person receive an actual financial
152 benefit from the transaction with the city. An actual financial benefit from the
153 transaction shall include:

154 1. An ownership in the entity transacting business with the city where the
155 ownership interest is more than ten percent.

156 2. Compensation as an employee, officer or director of the entity transacting
157 business with the city where such compensation is affected by the entity's
158 transaction with the city.

159 b) Participate in a vote or decision on any matter in which the officer has a substantial
160 interest. A city official who is required to abstain from participation in a matter under
161 this section or under state law shall leave the room where the meeting is held during
162 any discussion of, and vote on, the matter.

163 c) Represent or appear on behalf of private interests of others before the City Council,
164 or any agency, board, commission, corporation, or committee of the city, nor shall

165 represent any private interests of others in any action or proceeding involving the city,
166 nor voluntarily participate on behalf of others in any litigation to which the city is, or
167 might be, an adverse party. The restrictions of this subsection 2-4(c) do not prohibit
168 an officer, or relative of an officer, who is the president, vice president, or officer of a
169 homeowner's association from appearing before the City Council, or any agency,
170 board, commission, or committee of the city to represent such homeowner's
171 association, except that no such officer or relative of such officer shall appear before
172 the agency, board, commission, or committee of the city of which such officer is a
173 member.

174 d) Accept any gift from any person that might reasonably tend to influence such officer
175 in the discharge of such person's official duties. The prohibition against gifts **shall not**
176 **apply to:**

- 177 1. A lawful campaign contribution;
- 178 2. An honorarium in consideration for services unless the officer would not have
179 been asked to provide the services but for the officer's position;
- 180 3. Meals, lodging, transportation in connection with services rendered by the
181 officer at a conference, seminar or similar event that is more than merely
182 perfunctory;
- 183 4. Complimentary copies of trade publications and other related materials;
- 184 5. Attendance at hospitality functions at local, regional, state or national
185 association meetings and/or conferences;
- 186 6. Any gift which would have been offered or given to the person if such person
187 was not an officer or employee of the city;
- 188 7. An occasional item with a value less than \$50.00;
- 189 8. Tee shirts, caps and other similar promotional material;
- 190 9. Meals, transportation and lodging in connection with a seminar or conference
191 at which the officer is providing services;
- 192 10. Gifts on account of kinship or a personal, or professional, or business
193 relationship independent of the officer's status;
- 194 11. Complimentary attendance at political or charitable fundraising events; and
- 195 12. Meals, lodging, transportation, or entertainment furnished in connection with
196 public events, appearances or ceremonies related to official city business, if
197 furnished by the sponsor of such public events.

198 e) Use such person's official position to secure special privileges or benefits for such
199 person or others.

200 f) Grant any special consideration, treatment, or advantage to any citizen, individual,
201 business organization or group beyond that which is normally available to every other
202 citizen, individual, business organization, or group.

203 g) Misuse and disclosure of confidential information.

- 204 1. It is a violation of this ethics code for a city official to violate V.T.C.A., Penal
205 Code, § 39.06 (Misuse of Official Information), as amended.
- 206 2. A city official shall not disclose to the public any information that is deemed
207 confidential under any federal, state, local law, or City Council house rules.
- 208 h) Engage in any outside activities which will conflict with or will be incompatible with
209 such person's official position or duties as an officer of the city.
- 210 i) Use city supplies, personnel, property, equipment, or facilities (whether tangible or
211 intangible) for any purpose other than the conduct of official city business, unless
212 otherwise provided for by law, ordinance, or city policy.
- 213 j) Act as a surety on any official bond required for any officer or employee of the city, or
214 for a business that has a contract, work, or business with the city.

215 **Sec. 2-104. Additional standards.**

- 216 a) No member of the City Council who is on the board of a nonprofit organization may
217 vote on any funding request by that nonprofit organization, unless the nonprofit
218 organization has a board of directors or trustees appointed in whole or in part by the
219 City Council.
- 220 b) With the exception of those proceedings allowed under this division, no member of
221 the City Council shall personally appear in such person's own behalf before the City
222 Council, or any city board, commission, corporation, or committee but may designate
223 and be represented by a person of such person's choice in any such personal matter.
- 224 c) No member of the City Council, the planning and zoning commission, zoning board of
225 adjustment, or substandard building board shall participate in, or vote on, any land
226 use matter in which such officer has a substantial interest in any real property within
227 200 feet of the real property, the subject of the land use matter. For purposes of this
228 subsection 2-5(c) "land use matter" shall mean zoning, plat approval, site plan or other
229 development approvals or permits, variances or exceptions. The term "land use
230 matter" does not include studies or similar matters that are for the benefit of the city
231 and which are not unique to real property within 200 feet of the real property, the
232 subject of the land use matter, in which the officer has a substantial interest.
- 233 d) No member of the City Council shall fail or refuse to file a conflicts disclosure
234 statement as required by V.T.C.A. Local Government Code Ch. 176, as amended.

235 **Sec. 2-105. City Council code of conduct – house rules.**

236 As stewards of North Richland Hills, each member of the City Council holds a profound
237 responsibility to conduct public business with integrity, transparency, and respect. These
238 house rules embody that commitment and set the expectations held for City Council in
239 serving the city.

- 240 a) Honor City Council Decisions — Once a final vote has taken place, I will support
241 and uphold the outcome, even if I personally oppose it, recognizing that a unified
242 voice maintains public confidence and effective municipal governance.

- 243 b) Prioritize the City’s Well-Being — Every issue I consider will be evaluated strictly
244 by what is best for the City of North Richland Hills and its residents, not by
245 individual preferences, special interests, or personal gain.
- 246 c) Truthfulness and Integrity – Always be honest in words and actions. Communicate
247 facts accurately and avoid misleading statements.
- 248 d) Vision-Driven Decision Making – Base decisions on the City’s long-term vision,
249 goals, and priorities—not on personal interests or short-term gains.
- 250 e) Respectful Dialogue and Collaboration – Treat others with courtesy and
251 professionalism. Be prepared for each meeting. Allow full discussion of items,
252 listen actively, and avoid interrupting or dismissing differing views.
- 253 f) Transparency and Open Communication – Share relevant information proactively.
254 Be clear about your reasoning and positions. If you disagree, express it respectfully
255 and constructively.
- 256 g) Agree to disagree – Recognize that differences of opinion are natural. Debate
257 issues respectfully and accept final decisions without hostility.
- 258 h) Conduct of Business in Public Forums – Discuss with a quorum of the city council,
259 public business or public policy over which the City Council has supervision or
260 control only in official City Council meetings posted in accordance with the Texas
261 Open Meetings Act (“TOMA”) —not on social media or other informal platforms.
- 262 i) Advance Communication and Fairness – Share questions and concerns ahead of
263 meetings with the City Manager whenever possible.
- 264 j) Confidentiality – Protect the confidentiality of executive sessions and sensitive
265 information related to city operations at all times.
- 266 k) Inclusive Citizen Engagement – When seeking input, reach out broadly to all
267 residents rather than select groups.
- 268 l) Respect for Presiding Officer and Procedures – Elected officials shall respect the
269 chair and adhere to designated rules of procedure and parliamentary practices, as
270 outlined in Chapter 2, Article II, of the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances,
271 during meetings to ensure orderly and fair deliberation.
- 272 m) Timely Response to the Public – City Council members shall respond promptly and
273 professionally to inquiries from the public, following established communication
274 protocols and legal requirements.

275 **Sec. 2-106. Statements by public officials.**

- 276 a) When the City of North Richland Hills is involved in litigation or a legal dispute, council
277 members shall refrain from commenting on settlements, appeals, or other issues
278 related to the subject until the matter is resolved. The mayor or city attorney shall be
279 authorized to provide any public responses or comments, as needed on matters
280 involving litigation.

281

282 b) When speaking in an “official” capacity on behalf of the city, the following guidelines
283 apply:

- 284 1. The mayor speaks for the city and consensus of the City Council.
- 285 2. The city manager speaks on administration and management issues.
- 286 3. Council members are to refer media contacts to the mayor and city manager.

287 c) Statements made by public officials are conducted in a professional manner.

288 **Sec. 2-107. Restrictions on political activity and political contributions.**

289 a) No city official or candidate for City Council shall meet with any employee or group of
290 employees of the city for political campaign purposes while such employees are on
291 duty unless part of an approved City Council activity or part of a public political forum
292 in which all candidates for City Council are invited to participate.

293 b) No city official shall, directly or indirectly, coerce or attempt to coerce any city
294 employee to:

- 295 1. Participate in an election campaign, contribute to a candidate or political
296 committee, or engage in any other political activity relating to a particular party,
297 candidate, or issue; or
- 298 2. Refrain from engaging in any lawful political activity.

299 c) The following actions by city officials are not prohibited by this section:

- 300 1. The making of a general statement encouraging another person to vote in an
301 election;
- 302 2. A solicitation of contributions or other support that is directed to the general
303 public or to an association or organization; and
- 304 3. The acceptance of a campaign contribution from a city employee.

305 d) No city official shall use, request, or permit the use of city facilities, personnel,
306 equipment, or supplies for the creation or distribution of materials to be used in a
307 political campaign or for any other purpose in support of a political campaign.
308 However, meeting rooms and other city facilities that are made available for use by
309 the public may be used for political purposes by city officials under the same terms
310 and conditions as they are made available for other public uses.

311 **Sec. 2-108. Regulations applicable to former members of City Council and**
312 **appointed board/commission members.**

313 A former member of City Council or an appointed board/commission shall not use or
314 disclose, for any reason or purpose except as herein permitted, confidential government
315 information acquired during the member's service on the City Council or an appointed
316 board/commission. This prohibition shall not apply if:

- 317 a) The information is no longer confidential.
- 318 b) The information involves reports of illegal or unethical conduct and is disclosed to
319 a law enforcement agency or the city as a complaint under this division; or
- 320 c) The disclosure is necessary to further public safety and is not otherwise prohibited
321 by law.

322 **Sec. 2-109. Disclosure of substantial interest.**

323 Any officer, who has a substantial interest in any matter pending before the body, board,
324 commission, corporation, or committee of which the officer is a member, before a vote or
325 decision on such matter, shall file an affidavit stating the nature and extent of the
326 substantial interest, and shall abstain from further participation in such matter. The
327 affidavit shall be on a form provided by the city and must be filed with record keeper for
328 such body, board, commission, corporation, or committee. A city official who is required
329 to abstain from participation in a matter under this section or under state law shall leave
330 the room where the meeting is held during any discussion of, and vote on, the matter.

331 **Sec. 2-110. Complaints against officers.**

- 332 a) All complaints or allegations of a violation of this code of ethics against an officer shall
333 be made in writing on a form provided by the city, sworn to before a notary public, and
334 filed of record with the city secretary. Such complaint shall describe in detail the act or
335 acts complained of and the specific section(s) of this code of ethics alleged to have
336 been violated. A general complaint lacking in detail shall not be sufficient to invoke the
337 investigation procedures contained herein; and anonymous complaints shall not be
338 considered. The city secretary shall provide a copy of the complaint to the affected
339 officer and the City Council, and immediately refer the complaint to the city attorney,
340 who shall initially review the complaint to determine if the complaint contains sufficient
341 detail and alleges a violation of the code of ethics. The affected officer may file a
342 written response to the complaint within seven calendar days after the complaint is
343 filed with the city secretary, who shall forward the response, if any, to the city attorney.
- 344 b) The city attorney shall submit a written report to the City Council as soon as possible
345 but not later than 15 calendar days after the receipt of the complaint, unless an
346 extension is granted by a majority of the non-implicated City Council members. The
347 city attorney may contact the complainant, interview witnesses, and examine any
348 documents necessary for the report. Such report shall be comprehensive and explain
349 in detail all facts, findings, and conclusions in support of the city attorney's opinion as

350 to whether or not a violation of this code of ethics occurred. When the city attorney
351 receives a vague complaint or one lacking in detail, the city attorney shall contact the
352 complainant to request a written clarification. Within seven calendar days, if the
353 complainant fails to provide the city attorney with written clarification, or if after written
354 clarification is provided, it is the opinion of the city attorney that the complaint is
355 insufficient in detail and/or fails to allege a prima facie violation of the code of ethics,
356 a written report to that effect shall be submitted to the City Council. If the city attorney
357 determines that a criminal violation may exist, the city attorney shall refer the matter
358 to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

359 c) If it is determined by the city attorney that the facts as alleged could constitute a
360 violation of this code of ethics, then the city attorney shall, within 30 calendar days
361 after receipt of the complaint, notify the mayor and Council members of the existence
362 and nature of the complaint. The City Council shall cause a meeting to convene,
363 whether regular or special, no sooner than 15 calendar days and no later than 30
364 calendar days after being so notified by the city attorney to further consider said
365 complaint in executive session. In any event, the city attorney shall immediately
366 proceed to fully investigate the alleged improprieties. For purposes of this
367 investigation, the city attorney shall have all of the powers of investigation as are given
368 to the City Council by reason of the City Charter and shall report back to the City
369 Council as soon as possible but in no event more than 30 calendar days from the date
370 City Council met with the city attorney to consider complaint unless an extension is
371 granted by the City Council. Said report shall be comprehensive and explain in detail
372 all facts, findings and conclusions in support of the city attorney's opinion as to whether
373 a violation of this code of ethics occurred. The city attorney has the same power to
374 subpoena witnesses and the production of documents, books, records and other
375 evidence as are given the City Council under the City Charter when acting pursuant
376 to this subsection. It shall be unlawful and an offense for any person to fail to obey a
377 subpoena or to produce books, papers or other evidence as ordered under the
378 provisions of this section and shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable
379 by fine not to exceed \$500.00.

380 d) The City Council shall consider the complaint and the city attorney's report at an
381 executive session of the City Council. The affected officer may request that the
382 complaint be considered in a public meeting. At such meeting, the city attorney shall
383 present a written report to the City Council describing in detail the nature of the
384 complaint and the city attorney's findings and conclusions as to a possible violation of
385 this code of ethics. The affected officer shall have the right to a full and complete
386 hearing before the City Council with the opportunity and right to attend the hearing,
387 make a statement, call and cross-examine witnesses and present evidence on such
388 person's behalf, and represent themselves or be represented by legal counsel, at such
389 affected officer's own expense. The non-implicated City Council members in
390 attendance shall conduct a hearing and review the complaint. The City Council may
391 reject the complaint or take action authorized under section 2-111, Violations.

392 e) No action or decision with regard to the complaint shall be made except in a meeting
393 which is open to the public.

- 394 f) The City Council may appoint outside legal counsel or may direct the city attorney to
395 appoint outside legal counsel, or the city attorney in the city attorney's discretion, with
396 the City Manager's approval, may appoint outside legal counsel, to perform the duties
397 and responsibilities of the city attorney under subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this
398 section. The outside legal counsel shall have the same power to subpoena witnesses
399 and the production of documents, books, records, and other evidence as the city
400 attorney under section (c) when acting pursuant to this subsection. It shall be unlawful
401 and an offense for any person to failure to obey a subpoena or to produce books,
402 papers or other evidence as ordered under the provisions of this section and shall
403 constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by fine not to exceed \$500.00.
- 404 g) A complaint or allegation of a violation of this division may only be made against an
405 officer while such person holds such position or office. A complaint made against an
406 officer pursuant to this section shall be processed and resolved even if such person
407 resigns from, or ceases to hold such position or office, prior to resolution of the
408 complaint.

409 **Sec. 2-111. Action on complaint.**

410 The City Council may take any one or more of the following actions in an open meeting
411 concerning a complaint:

- 412 a) Issue a statement finding the complaint is totally without merit, brought for the purpose
413 of harassment, or brought in bad faith.
- 414 b) Issue a letter of notification when the violation is unintentional. A letter of notification
415 shall advise the officer of any steps to be taken to avoid future violations.
- 416 c) Issue a letter of admonition when the violation is minor or may have been unintentional
417 but calls for a more substantial response than a letter of notification.
- 418 d) Issue a reprimand when a violation has been committed knowingly or intentionally.
- 419 e) Remove from office an officer, other than a member of the City Council, for a serious
420 or repeated violation of this code of ethics. Removal shall be, to the extent by and
421 allowed, in compliance with the Charter and state law.
- 422 f) Pass a resolution of censure or a recommendation of recall when the City Council
423 finds that a serious or repeated violation of this code of ethics has been committed
424 intentionally by a member of the City Council.

425 **Sec. 2-112. Penalty for filing false complaint or giving false testimony.**

426 It is unlawful for a person to knowingly file a complaint under this division that contains
427 false information or that by making reasonable inquiry should have known that it
428 contained false information. It is unlawful for a person to intentionally give false testimony
429 under oath in any hearing before a review panel held under this division. Any person
430 found guilty of violating this section will be fined not more than \$500.00 for each offense.

431 **Sec. 2-113. Interpretation of content.**

432 Any officer may request, and the city attorney shall issue, a verbal or written opinion (as
433 deemed appropriate) concerning the meaning or effect of any section, word, or
434 requirement of this code of ethics as it affects such person.

435 **Sec. 2-114. Acknowledgement of code of ethics.**

436 The city secretary shall provide each officer with a copy of the Code of Ethics at the time
437 the officer is initially elected or appointed, upon any subsequent reelection or
438 appointment, and each time the Code of Ethics is amended. Each officer shall, within 30
439 days of receiving the Code of Ethics under this section, file with the city secretary an
440 acknowledgment, in a form provided by the city secretary, stating that the officer has
441 received and read the Code of Ethics. If an officer refuses to sign the acknowledgment
442 form, the city secretary shall execute a certification stating that the officer was provided
443 with a copy of the Code of Ethics as required by this section, including the date it was
444 provided. If any officer refuses to sign the acknowledgement form, such omission is
445 eligible for a complaint to be filed against the officer.

446 **Sec. 2-115. Training**

447 The city attorney shall provide annual training and educational materials to city officials
448 on their ethical obligations under state law and this division.

449 **Secs. 2-116 - 2-119. Reserved.”**

450
451 **SECTION 3:** This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of the Code of
452 Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, except where the
453 provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such
454 ordinances and such Code, in which event conflicting provisions of such
455 ordinances and such Code are hereby repealed.
456

457 **SECTION 4:** All rights and remedies of the City of North Richland Hills are expressly
458 saved as to any and all violations of the provisions of any ordinances in
459 the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, that have
460 accrued at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance; and, as to such
461 accrued violations and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal,
462 whether pending in court or not, under such ordinances, same shall not
463 be affected by this Ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition
464 by the courts.
465

466 **SECTION 5:** It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the
467 phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance
468 are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section
469 of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment
470 or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality
471 shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences,
472 paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have

473 been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this
474 Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence,
475 paragraph, or section.
476

477 **SECTION 6:** The City Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause the
478 publication of the descriptive caption and penalty clause of this Ordinance
479 as required by law, if applicable.
480

481 **SECTION 7:** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon publication as
482 required by law.
483

484 **AND IT IS SO ORDAINED.**
485

486 **PASSED AND APPROVED** on this 13th of April, 2026.
487

488
489 **CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS**
490

491
492 _____
493 Jack McCarty, Mayor

494 **ATTEST:**
495

496 _____
497 Alicia Richardson
498 City Secretary/Chief Governance Officer
499

500 **APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**
501

502
503 _____
504 Bradley A. Anderle, City Attorney
505
506
507
508
509