

May 7, 2013

To: Rondella Hawkins

From: Ethics & Compliance Team, Law Department

Subject: **Can board and commission members participate in the Google campaign?**

The City partners with private industry on projects that benefit the community, serve a municipal purpose, and exercise certain development opportunities created by State law. In such instances, it is not an inappropriate use of City resources to dedicate staff, time, etc. to promote such projects. The Google campaign is an example of a project that the City has determined to be beneficial to the overall community and has identified appropriate staff and resources to work on the project on behalf of the City. The City Council and City management determine which staff and resources are to be dedicated.

As representatives of the City, boards and commission members must keep their City role separate from their personal interests. Public perception is just as important to the City's reputation as is compliance to its laws.

Board and commission members may:

- Speak as a private citizen
- Participate in the Google campaign away from work and on their personal time
- Put bumper stickers on their personal vehicles or signs in their yard

Board and commission members may not:

- Speak on behalf of the City or the board/commission
- Put bumper stickers on City vehicles or display signs at City facilities
- Use City time, funds, property or workspace to support or oppose the campaign
- Authorize the spending of City funds or use City resources (employee time, City facilities, etc.) to produce, copy or distribute advertising for the campaign.
- Use any of the following to advocate or oppose the campaign:
 - City email system
 - City internet Web pages
 - City equipment or resources (copiers, supplies, staff, Channel 6)
 - City funds
 - City postage or stationary
 - City bulletin boards.

If you have any questions regarding the use of City resources, conflicts of interest, or abuse of power contact the Ethics & Compliance Team in the City Law Department at 974-2180.