

Draft:

Statutory Control/Ethics Amendment – it has been suggested that you introduce statutory controls relating to contracts, here are some provisions that you might munch on:

- What caps, if any, exist on current employees contributions (political activity)
- Accepting gifts from vendors
- What is the appropriate cap – what would courts uphold – could you go to \$100 rather than \$250

Elected Officials shall maintain the highest ethical standards – any elected official or someone running for office:

- Shall not receive, ask for or in any direct or indirect way receive any contributions from any individual, business or social agency doing business with the City.
- Shall not interfere in the competitive awarding of contracts or service engagement.
- Shall disclose any contact they have had with vendors or principals related to any contracts or services they are approving.
- In approving contracts, shall disclose any contact they had with vendors.
- Shall not receive any gifts, favors or in-kind services from the same.
- Shall not engage the same for any private work.
- Make more secure whistleblower law – making it clear elected officials can't interfere/politicize work environment or engage in retaliation – perhaps note complaint can be filed with ethics board or solicitor?
- Penalty – what are the range of penalties?

Any individual, business, social agencies or entity that has a contacts with the city shall be prohibited from providing campaign contributions to any elected official or official running for office in the City of Allentown.

- Penalties – what are the range of penalties?

Whistleblower protection: employee's obligation to report potential violations to ethics board

Campaign Limits – County Executive Proposal

Wants to cap how much candidates can raise from individual donors and cap campaign expenditures; candidates would not be able to accept more than \$2,500 from a single person or \$7,500 from an individual political action committee; the county executive would face a \$125,000 limit and commissioners \$7,500 (spending limits at this time are legally questionable).

Prohibit Gifts – Bethlehem was in the news on this – Allentown does have a 'gift' and other prohibitions in the ethics ordinance, the section in your ethics code relating to gifts is copied below, the full text is below.

C. Gifts and Favors

No official or employee or associate of either of them shall accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing, or promise, from any person, firm, corporation or association which to his knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the City; nor shall such official or employee or associate of either of them accept any gift, regardless of value, favor or thing of value that may tend to influence him

in the discharge of his duties or grant in the discharge of his duties any improper favor, service or things. (11821 9/1/70)

(Officials that fill out financial interest statements must claim any gift over \$250.)

#### Nepotism

- Maintain integrity of the work force
- no interference in hiring, firing, promotions of city employees nor advocate, or vote on

Private work – must disclose private work done by vendor that has a contract – or disclosure must be made

Cabinet members sign pledge

