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Amendments to Code of Ethics and Disclosure Ordinance

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This package of amendments to the Code of Ethics and the Disclosure Code (Articles IV and V of DRMC Chapter 2) is meant to provide clarity and consistency in reporting. It addresses repeated inquiries and confusion over what items are required to be reported in semi-annual disclosure reports, a conflict with the code and a recent advisory opinion from the Board of Ethics, and continuing calls for transparency in the conduct of city business.

The amendments make clear what has always been the intent, that the city is not a donor to its own officials and employees within the meaning of the Code of Ethics, while adding a new requirement in the Disclosure Code that expands semi-annual disclosure reports by officers and officials to include items received from city agencies valued at \$25 or more.

Here is an abstract of the amendments:

- Sec. 2-52 Definitions has a new paragraph (f) stating that a donor does not include the city, its agencies, officials or employees when the item is paid for by the city.
- Sec. 2-72(c), the semi-annual gift disclosure requirement for officials, and renumbered Sec. 2-73, the annual employee report, adds “gifts to commemorate a public event” from Sec. 2-60(b)(9) to the list of gifts that must be disclosed.
- Sec. 2-72.5, the annual gift disclosure by employees, is renumbered 2-73 and amended to require the report only from employees who receive a gift.
- A new Sec. 2-74 establishes a new report by officers in order to provide increased transparency when city agencies other than their own provide items to them. These things are not subject to the regulations in the Code of Ethics, but those that exceed \$25 in value are to be reported semi-annually, including any overnight travel expenses paid for by the city.