

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 9, SECTION 2-9.5 ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS; CERTAIN GIFTS PROHIBITED; ACCEPTABLE GIFTS; AMOUNT TO BE ADJUSTED EVERY FIVE YEARS; GIFT RETURNED TO DONOR OR DONATED TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION" OF THE POLICIES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD - FIRST READING

BE IT ORDAINED, by the School Board of the City of Suffolk, Virginia that Chapter 2, Article 9, Section 2-9.5 entitled "Definitions; Certain Gifts prohibited; Acceptable gifts; Amount to be Adjusted Every Five Years; Gift returned to donor or donated to charitable organization" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board, be, and the same is hereby amended as follows:

Section 2-9.5. Definitions; Certain Gifts prohibited; Acceptable gifts; Amount to be Adjusted Every Five Years; Gift returned to donor or donated to charitable organization. — A. For the purpose of this subsection the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Person, organization or business" includes individuals who are officers, directors or owners of or who have a controlling ownership interest in such organization or business.
- (2) "Widely attended event" means an event at which at least 25 persons have been invited to attend or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 25 persons will attend the event and the event is open to individuals (i) who share a common interest, (ii) who are members of the public, civic, charitable or professional organization, (iii) who are from a particular industry or profession or (iv) who represent persons interested in a particular issue.

B. School Board members and employees required to file a Statement of Economic Interests as prescribed in Va. Code § 2.2-3117 and members of their immediate families shall not solicit, accept or receive any single gift with a value in excess of \$100 or any combination of gifts with an aggregate value in excess of \$100 within any calendar year for the School Board member or employee or a member of the School Board or employee's immediate family from any person that the School Board member or employee or a member of the School Board's or employee's immediate family knows or has reason to know is (i) a lobbyist registered pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-418 et seq.; (ii) a lobbyist's principal as defined in Va. Code § 2.2-419; or (iii) a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board. Gifts with a value of less than \$20 are not subject to aggregation for purposes of this prohibition.

C. Notwithstanding the above, School Board members and employees required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and members of their immediate families may accept or receive the following:

- (1) a gift of food and beverages, entertainment or the cost of admission with a value in excess of \$100 when such gift is accepted or received while in attendance at a widely attended event and is associated with the event. Such gifts shall be reported on the Statement of Economic Interests;
- (2) a gift from a foreign dignitary with a value exceeding \$100 for which the fair market value or a gift of greater or equal value has not been provided or exchanged so long as such foreign dignitary is not a representative of a foreign country of concern. Such gift shall be accepted on behalf of the Commonwealth or a locality and archived in accordance with guidelines established by the Library of Virginia. Such gift shall be disclosed as having been accepted on behalf of the Commonwealth or a locality, but the value of such gift shall not be required to be disclosed;
- (3) certain gifts with a value in excess of \$100 from a lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board if such gift was provided to such School Board member or employee or a member of the immediate family of the School Board member or employee on the basis of a personal friendship. A lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board may be a personal friend of such School Board member or employee or the immediate family of the School Board member or employee. In determining whether a lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board is a personal friend, the following factors shall be considered: (i) the circumstances under which the gift was offered; (ii) the history of the relationship between the person and the donor, including the nature and length of the friendship and any previous exchange of gifts between them; (iii) to the extent known to the person, whether the donor personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (iv) whether the donor has given the same or similar gifts to other persons required to file the disclosure form prescribed in Va. Code §§ 2.2-3117 or 30-111; and
- (4) gifts of travel, including travel-related transportation, lodging, hospitality, food or beverages, or other thing of value, with a value in excess of \$100 that is paid for or provided by a lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board when the School Board member or employee has submitted a request for approval of such travel to the Council and has received the approval of the Council pursuant to Va. Code § 30-356.1. Such gifts shall be reported on the Statement of Economic Interests.

D. The \$100 limitation imposed in accordance with this section shall be adjusted by the School Board every five years, as of January 1 of that year, in an amount equal to the annual increases for that five-year period in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

E. No person shall be in violation of this policy if (i) the gift is not used by such person and the gift or its equivalent in money is returned to the donor or delivered to a charitable organization within a reasonable period of time upon the discovery of the value of the gift and is not claimed as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes or (ii) consideration is given by the donee to the donor for the value of the gift within a reasonable period of time upon the discovery of the value of the gift provided that such consideration reduces the value of the gift to \$100 or less. (Adopted: April 14, 2016; Ordinance Number 15/16-22; Effective Date July 1, 2016)

Legal Authority – Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3101, 2.2-3102, 2.2-3103, 2.2-3103.2, 2.2-3104.1, 2.2-3108, 2.2-3109, 2.2- 3110, 2.2-3112, 2.2-3115, 2.2-3119 and 2.2-3124 (1950), as amended.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections and chapters of the School Board’s Policy Manual not amended or repealed shall remain in full force and effect.

FIRST READING: _____

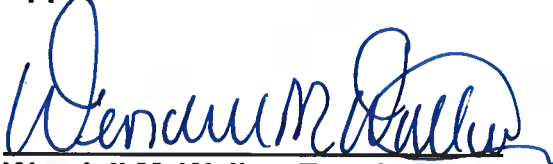
SECOND READING: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

TESTE: _____

CLERK

Approved as to form and content:



**Wendell M. Waller, Esquire
School Board Attorney**