

# ROSEVILLE *Ethics Tip*

February 2012

## **When Public Interest Can Become Personal Impropriety**

Congressional “Earmarks” have become a hot topic on the federal level in recent years. Earmarks are meant to designate funds or resources for a particular purpose typically in the districts of Members of Congress. However, these earmarks have brought questions of alleged conflicts of interests based on proximity to the Members of Congress’ personal or familial property or other interest.

How does this apply to you as a city employee or elected / appointed public official? As a public employee or official for the City of Roseville, we all need to live up to a higher standard to avoid any appearance of impropriety. Our Code of Ethics includes ethical considerations that we must abide by. Some of these items that may compromise the performance of our duties include:

- Other offices or employment,
- Investments,
- Financial Interests, and
- Real Property

If you should encounter a situation where your official duties overlap with your personal interests, remember to disclose the potential conflict of interest and, if appropriate, self-disqualify yourself from the particular action that might be compromised by these interests.

Elected and appointed officials are required to submit annual “Disclosure of Financial Interests” statements disclosing potential conflicts of interest in business dealings and real property holdings. However, this is an ongoing obligation throughout the year should your circumstances change. A new disclosure statement must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the change.

### **Ethics Training**

Please join us on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 for Roseville’s annual ethics training. A social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. Between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., former Mayor Craig Klausing will provide information on Roseville’s Code of Ethics and Hamline University Professor and Attorney David Shultz will conduct the training. Professor Schultz will lead a discussion of ethical questions and how to identify issues such as conflicts of interest in our responsibilities as public officials. We look forward to seeing you on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Sent on behalf of the Roseville Ethics Commission*

Interested in learning more about City Ethics? Visit CITY ETHICS at <http://www.cityethics.org>

CITY ETHICS is a non-profit organization formed in 2000. Its purpose is to provide a centralized location for information and resources for all forms of local government ethics programs.