

ROSEVILLE *Ethics Tip*

February 2015

The “Front Page” Test: An Easy Ethics Standard

In a time crunch when you can’t consult the Ethics Commission, you may find it helpful to use the “front page” test. The test requires you to ask yourself: How would I feel if the course of action I am considering were reported on the front page of the local newspaper or in a blog? If you would be at all uncomfortable, the best course of action is not to proceed with the action.

The front page test is useful because it encourages a public official to think about how his or her actions might look to the outside world. People tend to rationalize their actions, usually by starting an analysis with what they want to do and then reasoning backwards to justify that preferred course of action. However, by stopping to think about how the average citizen might perceive your actions you may reconsider it.

Citation: www.ca-ilg.org/FrontPageTest

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.