

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA PLATA
Ordinance 12-01

Introduced By: Mayor Roy G. Hale
Date Introduced: January 24, 2012
Date Adopted: February 28, 2012
Date Effective: March 15, 2012

1 **An Ordinance** concerning
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3 **REVISIONS TO NEW ETHICS ORDINANCE**
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5 **FOR** the purpose of amending a new ethics ordinance for the Town of La Plata adopted by
6 Ordinance 11-13 on September 27, 2011, to make a certain modification required by the State
7 Ethics Commission to comply with requirements of Maryland law.
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11 **BY** repealing and reenacting, with amendments
12 Sections 20-5(h)(5), 20-5(j)(4) and 20-6(f)(4)(i)
13 Chapter 20, Ethics
14 Code of the Town of La Plata
15 (1998 Edition as amended)
16 (As adopted by Ordinance 11-13 on September 27, 2011)
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19 **SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA**
20 **PLATA**, That Sections 20-5(h)(5), 20-5(j)(4) and 20-6(f)(4)(i), of the Code of the Town of La
21 Plata (1998 Edition as amended), Chapter 20, Ethics, as adopted by Ordinance 11-13 on
22 September 27, 2011, are repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:
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24 **CHAPTER 20 - ETHICS**

25 **20-5 Conflicts of interest.**

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27 (h) Solicitation and acceptance of gifts.
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29 (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (3) and subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, an official
30 or employee may accept the following:
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- 32 (i) Meals and beverages consumed in the presence of the donor or sponsoring entity;
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34 (ii) Ceremonial gifts or awards that have insignificant monetary value;

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(iii) Unsolicited gifts of nominal value that do not exceed ((\$ 25)) \$20 in cost or trivial items of informational value;

(iv) Reasonable expenses for food, travel, lodging, and scheduled entertainment of the official or the employee at a meeting which is given in return for the participation of the official or employee in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting;

(v) Gifts of tickets or free admission extended to an elected local official to attend a charitable, cultural, or political events, if the purpose of this gift or admission is a courtesy or ceremony extended to the elected official's office;

(vi) A specific gift or class of gifts that the commission exempts from the operation of this subsection upon a finding, in writing, that acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be detrimental to the impartial conduct of the business of the town and that the gift is purely personal and private in nature;

(vii) Gifts from a person related to the official or employee by blood or marriage, or any other individual who is a member of the household of the official or employee; or

(viii) Honoraria for speaking to or participating in a meeting provided that the offering of the honorarium is not related in any way to the official's or employee's official position.

(j) Participation in procurement.

(1) An individual who drafts or assists in the drafting of specifications, an invitation for bids, or a request for proposals for a procurement for the town, may not assist or represent another person, directly or indirectly, who is submitting a bid or proposal for the procurement.

(2) An individual who drafts or assists in the drafting of specifications, an invitation for bids, or a request for proposals for a procurement for the town, may not submit a bid or proposal for the procurement.

(3) A person who employs a current or former town official or employee who drafted or assisted in the drafting of specifications, an invitation for bids, or a request for proposals for a procurement for the town, may not submit a bid or proposal for that procurement or assist or represent another person, directly or indirectly, who is submitting a bid or proposal for the procurement.

(4) The commission may establish exemptions from the requirements of this ((Section)) SUBSECTION for providing descriptive literature, sole source procurements, and written comments solicited by the procuring agency.

78 **20-6 Financial disclosure – elected officials and candidates to be town elected officials.**

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80 (f) Contents of statement.

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82 (4) Gifts.

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84 (i) A statement filed under this Section shall include a schedule of each gift in excess of
85 ((\$25)) \$20 in value or a series of gifts totaling \$100 or more received during the reporting
86 period from or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any one person who does business with or is
87 regulated by the Town.

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89 (ii) For each gift reported, the schedule shall include:

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91 (a) A description of the nature and value of the gift; and

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93 (b) The identity of the person from whom, or on behalf of whom, directly or indirectly,
94 the gift was received.

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96 **SECTION 2: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that this Ordinance shall become
97 effective (i) at the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its approval by the Council, or (ii)
98 upon approval by the State Ethics Commission, whichever occurs last.

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ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Council of the Town of La Plata on February 28, 2012.

SEAL:

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA PLATA

R. G. Hale
Roy G. Hale, Mayor

R. Wayne Winkler
R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman

C. Keith Back
C. Keith Back, Councilman

Paretta D. Mudd
Paretta D. Mudd, Councilwoman

ATTEST:

Danielle Mandley
Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk
Date 2/28/12

Joseph W. Norris
Joseph W. Norris, Councilman

<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATION:</p> <p>CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW</p> <p>((Double Parenthesis)) indicate matter deleted from existing law.</p> <p>* * * indicates existing law not depicted in bill and not being altered by bill</p> <p><u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.</p> <p>Strike Out indicates matter stricken from bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.</p>
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