

SANDOVAL COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

LUIS ROBLES, CONTRACT COMPLIANCE OFFICER
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ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2019

Ethics Board Members

Term Expiration

Robert Wilkins, Chair
(Appointee of District 1 Commissioner Katherine A. Bruch)

January 2021

Christopher Elam, Vice Chair
(Appointee of District 3 Commissioner Michael Meek)

February 2021

Richard Coe
(Appointee of District 2 Commissioner Jay C. Block)

January 2021

Brian Foster
(Appointee of District 4 Commissioner David J. Heil)

January 2021

Mike Patrick
(Appointee of District 5 Commissioner F. Kenneth Eichwald)

January 2021

Current alternates to the Ethics Board are David Craig (District 1), Arnold Farley (District 2), and Cindy Adelsberg (District 3). Alternate positions for Districts 4 and 5 are vacant.

The Ethics Board elected Robert Wilkins as Chair and Christopher Elam as Vice Chair at its May 16, 2019 meeting.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Sandoval County Ethics Ordinance is Chapter 2, Article V, Sections 2-171 through 2-184 of the Sandoval County Code ("Ethics Ordinance"). The Ethics Board also operates in accordance with relevant New Mexico statutes such as the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act.

HISTORY

The Ethics Ordinance and Ethics Board were adopted and created, respectively, in May 2018. The Ethics Ordinance sets forth standards of conduct for all public servants, including elected and appointed officers, and members of boards and commissions. The Ethics Ordinance is in addition to the personnel rules and regulations of Sandoval County.

ORGANIZATION

The Ethics Board consists of five (5) member and five (5) alternates appointed by the county commissioners, with each commissioner appointing one member, and one alternate from his or her district. The term of office for each citizen member is two (2) years, subject to reappointment thereafter.

The Contract Compliance Officer, Luis Robles, is a neutral, non-partisan county official that advises the Ethics Board. He assumed his position in June 2018. Prior to June 2018, the Sandoval County Attorney was the Acting Contract Compliance Officer.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ethics Board administers the Ethics Ordinance for county officials, unclassified employees, and members of county boards and commissions. The jurisdiction of the Ethics Board is limited to acting within the scope of matters covered by the Ethics Ordinance.

In addition to acting on complaints and conducting due process hearings, the Ethics Board is also authorized to:

- Recommend amendments to the Ethics Ordinance to the board of county commissioners; and
- Provide advisory opinions regarding the applicability or interpretation of any provision of the Ethics Ordinance upon request of any contractor or public servant.

BOARD MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

The Ethics Board met twice during the current reporting period. All Ethics Board members were present at both meetings.

Per the Ethics Ordinance, the Ethics Board is required to meet at least once per quarter, and more often when necessary to hear cases, act on reports, issue advisory opinions, discuss policy, and/or approve the quarterly report.

Going forward, the Ethics Board expects to fulfill its obligation(s) to meet at least once per quarter, and more often when necessary. Future meetings for 2019 will be set at the Ethics Board's July 10, 2019 meeting.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE DUTIES OF THE BOARD

During the current reporting period, the following matters came before the Ethics Board:

1. The Ethics Board received a sworn complaint from a county employee addressing concerns about the behavior of other county employees. Upon receipt and review of the complaint and supporting materials, the Acting Contract Compliance Officer determined all employees involved were classified employees. Pursuant to the Ethics Ordinance, the Acting Contract Compliance Officer referred the complaint to the County Manager for disposition as an employee disciplinary matter.
2. The Ethics Board received a sworn complaint from an elected county official addressing concerns about a former appointee of a county official. Upon review of the complaint and supporting materials, the Ethics Board determined it had no jurisdiction to hear the matter and issued an Order of Judgment dismissing the complaint with prejudice.

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