

This resolution was approved at the September 15, 2011 meeting of the Ward Three Democratic Committee.

The Ward Three Democratic Committee Government Ethics Reform Resolution

Introduced September 15, 2011

Whereas it is up to all citizens to ensure that strong ethical boundaries are set for our elected officials; and

Whereas ethics reform bills have been introduced in the Council:

Now therefore be it resolved that, as soon as the Council reconvenes in September, the Ward 3 Democratic Committee recommends that the D.C. Council hold, once ample public notice has been given, public hearings on these and other ethics bills as may be introduced; and

Be it further resolved that the Ward Three Democratic Committee advocate for amendments to current law and an ethics bill that includes the following principles:

- (1) a requirement that elected officials adhere to clearly stated, unified, and comprehensive codes of conduct and regulations governing transparency and public disclosure, conflicts of interest, and misuse of public funds and property;
- (2) strong sanctions and appropriate civil and criminal penalties for noncompliance with these codes and regulations;
- (3) in order to avoid conflicts of interest, provides that District law shall be amended to provide that, like the Mayor and the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, all other members of the Council shall not engage in any employment (whether as an employee or as a self-employed individual) or hold any position (other than his or her position as Council Member) for which he or she is compensated in an amount in excess of his or her actual expenses in connection therewith; and
- (4) provides for appointment of a D.C. Ethics Counsel for a term certain to head an independent ethics office to enforce these codes and regulations who has investigatory, enforcement, and resolution authority and is authorized to hold hearings that are publicized and open to the public and to levy monetary civil penalties on public officials, and to refer cases to the District of Columbia Attorney General and/or the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia; and
- (5) elimination of Constituent Service Funds for Elected Officials.