

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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WOODBIDGE MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC IMPLEMENTS GOOD GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

10-Point Plan Targets Open Government... Best Practices... Ethics

Woodbridge Twp., NJ – Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac has unveiled a ‘Good Government and Best Practices’ initiative geared to promote a greater level of public confidence and accountability of Woodbridge Township’s Municipal government and employees. The Woodbridge Township ‘10-Point Plan for Good Government’ is part of Mayor McCormac’s ongoing obligation to ensure that municipal government operations are open and accountable to the public.

“The goal of implementing and reinforcing good government and best practices is to increase government accountability and encourage citizen participation in Township initiatives and programs,” Mayor McCormac said. “The challenge for elected officials and government operations is to earn and maintain public trust. In Woodbridge Township, we are committed to open and honest government and will continue to implement and encourage best practices procedures.”

Mayor McCormac said that Woodbridge Township’s ‘10-Point Plan for Good Government’ includes a strict employee Code of Ethics which will be bolstered through annual ‘ethics-in-government’ training and seminars for Township employees, the establishment of an independent Audit Committee to assist in the oversight of Township financial reporting, the appointment of an independent Ethics Advisory Panel to oversee ethics-related complaints, and increased and open access to Township public records via the Open Public Records Act. Mayor McCormac’s ‘10-Point Plan for Good Government’ includes:

- Maintain and bolster Woodbridge Township Code of Ethics through appointment of a three-member Ethics Advisory Panel with responsibility for monitoring and administering the Township ethics Ordinance, adjudicating ethics-related complaints and proposing ethics law reforms. Mayor McCormac named Woodbridge Township attorneys Adam Glinn, Esq., Parag Patel, Esq. and Robert G. Goodman, Esq. to the independent Ethics Advisory Panel;
- Implement “customer satisfaction” surveys that encourage public comment on Township operations, including the permit and license process, police response, employee interaction with the public and Township programs and initiatives.

- Continue and expand current open and accessible public records via the New Jersey Open Public Records Act by publishing Township ordinances, budget, audit, and public documents via the Township Web page at: www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us;
- Appointment of an independent, three-member Township Audit Committee named by Council via passage of a Township Ordinance or Resolution;
- Implement across-the-board accounting and auditing standards and practices consistent with the federal Sarbanes Oxley Act mandating best practices requirements;
- Implement mandatory internal control training for all employees involved in financial controls and accounting procedures, cash receipts and disbursement, procurement procedures, municipal investments, and personnel management;
- Update Township ‘Whistle Blower’ policy consistent with the federal Sarbanes Oxley Act;
- Encourage municipal employees to offer opinions and report instances of suspect activity to management and supervisors, to the independent auditors and/or Ethics Advisory Panel;
- Require annual submissions from department and division supervisors/managers certifying that operations and responsibilities follow proper internal controls and procedures, including policies encouraging segregation of employee duties to avoid potential conflict of interest and periodic rotation of personnel; and
- Implement annual ethics, best practices and good government training for all Township employees;

Municipal Council President Brenda Yori Velasco joined Mayor McCormac in supporting Woodbridge Township’s ‘Good Government and Best Practices’ initiative. “The Municipal Council fully supports the Mayor’s ‘10-Point Plan for Good Government’ and will continue to encourage and implement good government practices which promote greater transparency and public accountability,” Velasco said.

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