



**TOWN OF TAOS  
TOWN COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 06-69**

**ADOPTION OF PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
CODE OF ETHICS**

**WHEREAS**, the effective functioning of democratic government requires public officials, both elected and appointed, to comply with both the letter and spirit of the laws and policies affecting the operations of government; and

**WHEREAS**, public officials shall be independent, impartial and fair in their judgment and actions and their public office be used for the public good, not for personal gain; and public deliberations and processes be conducted openly, unless legally confidential, in an atmosphere of respect and civility; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to uphold the highest degree of integrity and to render fair and impartial decisions regarding all matters before the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission agree to adhere to strict code of ethics that govern their behavior and decisions and have reviewed the attached Code of Ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Use Development Code authorizes the Commission to adopt rules for the conduct of its affairs; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town Council adopts the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission Code of Ethics.

**ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL** on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 2006.

**TOWN OF TAOS**

  
Bobby Duran, Mayor                      11-21-06  
Date

**ATTEST:**

  
Renee Lucero, Town Clerk                      11-21-06  
Date



Town of Taos  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Historic Preservation Commission

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

ADOPTED November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006

## **Code of Ethics**

This Code of Ethics is divided into four parts. The first part contains a list of principles the Planning & Zoning Commissioners and the Historic Preservation Commissioners strive to uphold in pursuit of their obligations to the Town of Taos and, most importantly, the public interest.

The second part contains the Rules of Conduct that govern the behavior of the Planning & Zoning Commissioners and the Historic Preservation Commissioners as it relates to their duties and responsibilities granted to them by the Mayor and Town Council.

The third part includes the procedures all Planning & Zoning Commissioners and the Historic Preservation Commissioners must follow when any member of either Commission is suspected of violating the Code of Ethics.

The fourth part provides the signatures of all Planning & Zoning Commissioners and Historic Preservation Commissioners.

### **I. Principles**

The Planning & Zoning Commissioners and the Historic Preservation Commissioners will strive to uphold the following principles.

1. To serve the public interest with the highest level of integrity and to continually strive to recognize and define the public interest through encouraging public debate, facilitating public participation, and by making themselves available to the public provided, however, that the engagement with the public is not in conflict with this Code of Ethics.
2. To consistently render fair and impartial decisions for all requests coming before the Commission.
3. To avoid any conflict of interest or even the appearance of any conflict of interest when rendering decisions.
4. To consider the long-term consequences of decisions as they relate to public health, safety, and welfare and to consider the possible impacts of decisions as they may have irreversible impacts on the natural and built environments, the economy, and the history and unique cultures of Taos.
5. To provide meaningful opportunities for all citizens to participate in decisions that affects their quality of life, particularly those citizens who historically do not have the resources to influence such decisions or who lack the organizational capacity to present their issues as a unified voice.
6. To work with the public, community organizations, Neighborhood Associations, and the elected and appointed leaders at all levels of government to develop a consensus for the future development and conservation of land and other natural and human resources.
7. To educate the public about planning and zoning issues.
8. To share experiences with other government officials as it relates to our duties and responsibilities.

### **II. Rules of Conduct**

The Planning & Zoning Commissioners and the Historic Preservation Commissioners shall follow the Rules of Conduct.

1. We shall not render a decision we know to be a violation of applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Town of Taos Land Use Development Code and related ordinances.

2. We shall not render a decision we know to be based on false, misleading, or irrelevant information nor shall we seek to influence or coerce the decisions of other Commissioners members based on false, misleading, or irrelevant information.
3. We shall not conceal information we know to be relevant to a decision, particularly when the information may influence the approval or denial of an application that impacts the health, safety, or welfare of the community.
4. We shall not solicit or accept, whether directly or indirectly or through our spouse or any member of our family or colleagues, any payment, gift, favor, service, employment or other gratuity in exchange for rendering a decision for or against an application or for influencing the decision(s) of other Commissioners.
5. We shall recuse ourselves from any deliberations if we or a member of our immediate family have, or appear to have, any personal, professional, or financial interest, either directly or indirectly, in any application coming before the Commission. Recusal shall include removing ourselves from the room in which the application in question is being considered. Because many, if not all, Commissioners are members of service organizations, special interest groups, Neighborhood Associations, or other community organizations, we shall avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest by recusing ourselves when an application is presented by or advocated for or against any such organization.
6. We shall not influence other Commissioners on an application, unless as part of an official meeting of the Commission.
7. We shall not discuss applications or site visits with the applicant(s) unless as part of an official meeting of the Commission.
8. We shall not discuss applications with the public unless as part of an official meeting of the Commission.
9. We shall not disclose confidential information unless required by law or to prevent a clear violation of the law.
10. We shall not use to our advantage any information received as a result of our participation on the Commission, nor shall we disclose any information to any other person when receiving the information may provide personal or financial advantage to the other person(s).
11. We shall make available to the Mayor and the Commissioners any written correspondence we may receive regarding any aspect of a pending or current application before the Commission. We shall disclose to the Commissioners the nature of any verbal communications we may have had with a pending applicant(s) or current applicant(s). We shall make any correspondence available to the applicant(s) and other interested parties.
12. We shall not solicit prospective clients or employment or influence existing clients or employers based on our position on the Commission.
13. We shall not file a frivolous charge of misconduct against another Commissioner.
14. We shall resign our position as a member of the Commission if we feel we cannot faithfully execute the requirements of the position or of this Code of Ethics.

### **III. Procedures**

All Commissioners shall follow these procedures if and when a Commissioner believes that another Commissioner or Commissioners have violated any part of this Code of Ethics.

1. Provide the Chairperson of the Commission and the Code Administrator with written complaint that another Commissioner or Commissioners have violated this Code of Ethics. The complaint must include specific reference to the Code of Ethics alleged to have been violated.
2. The Chairperson shall provide the complaint to the Mayor, the Code Administrator, and to the Commissioner(s) alleged to have violated the Code of Ethics.


3. The Commissioner(s) alleged to have violated the Code of Ethics shall have 30 days to respond to the complaint. Any response shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson, the Code Administrator, and the Mayor.
4. The Chairperson shall provide the written response of the Commissioner(s) who allegedly violated this Code of Ethics to the Commissioner(s) who first lodged the complaint and to the Mayor and the Code Administrator.
5. Any sanctions imposed on a Commissioner or Commissioners shall be executed according to the Land Use Development Code.

Any complaint or information resulting in these procedures is considered confidential under this Code of Ethics.

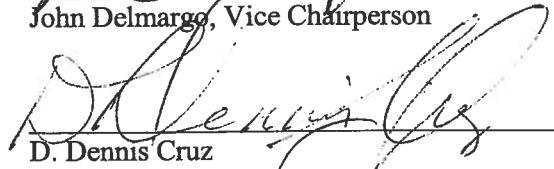
#### IV. Signatures

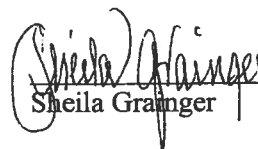
We hereby agree to abide by this Code of Ethics.


Planning and Zoning Commissioners:


  
 Patrick Nicholson, Chairperson

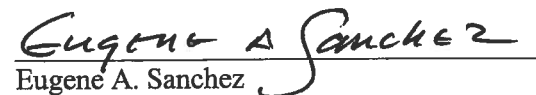
  
 John Delmargo, Vice Chairperson

  
 D. Dennis Cruz

  
 Sheila Grainger

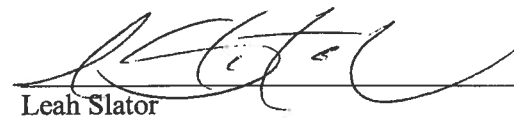
  
 William Himes

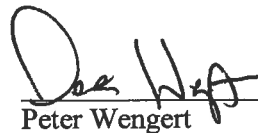
  
 Lillian Miller

  
 Eugene A. Sanchez

Historic Preservation Commissioners:

  
 Richard Montoya

  
 Leah Slator

  
 Peter Wengert

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

  
 Renee Barela-Gutierrez