

# **Ethics Committee**

## **Chapter 15 and 18 Revisions**



# Chapter 18-2 Definitions

## Sec. 18-2

### Definition expansion

- *City-appointed member of a board, committee, or commission, means a person appointed by the mayor or city council to serve as a voting member on any board, committee, or commission of which the city either created or the city is authorized by law to appoint on or more members.*

### What does this include?

- City officer boards
- City advisory boards
- TIRZs
- LGCs
- City nonprofits
- Other Gov entities like the Housing Authority, METRO, and the Port of Houston



# Chapter 15 - Contracts

## Sec. 15-1(a) & (b)

### Awarding of city contracts

- Makes it unlawful for city employees or city-appointed members of a board, committee, or commission to bid on or to be awarded any contract let by the City
- Applies to contracting directly with the individual or to firms the individual works for in which they have ownership interest in excess of one percent of the total ownership interest of a firm

## Sec. 15-1(i)

### Effect

- If a city-appointed member of a board, committee, or commission bids on, or is awarded, any contract being let by the city shall:
  - Be immediately removed from their membership on any board, committee, or commission they sit on (as allowable by law), and;
  - Be ineligible to serve on another board, committee, or commission for two years

## Sec. 15-1(i) - Implementation

### Period for education and fact finding

- Potential for delayed implementation of this provision
- Would allow for current board members to be educated on the choice they will need to make
- Doesn't create potential for large vacancies on boards
- Gives the Legal Department time to develop a process for conducting a net new check on business interests of board members



# Chapter 18 – Ethics and Financial Disclosure

## Sec. 18-3(d)

### **Adopt Chapter 15 restrictions**

- Restatement of restrictions for bidding on city work and sitting on boards, commissions, or committees as defined in Chapter 15

## Sec. 18-6

### **Contractors and Subcontractors**

- New section to the Ethics Ordinance
- Requires disclosure of the following for contractors and subcontractors
  - Name
  - Business address
  - Whether or not they are related to a city employee or elected city official within 1 degree of consanguinity or affinity
- Requires disclosure no later than 72 hours prior to council action

## Sec. 18-36

### **Prohibited contractor contributions**

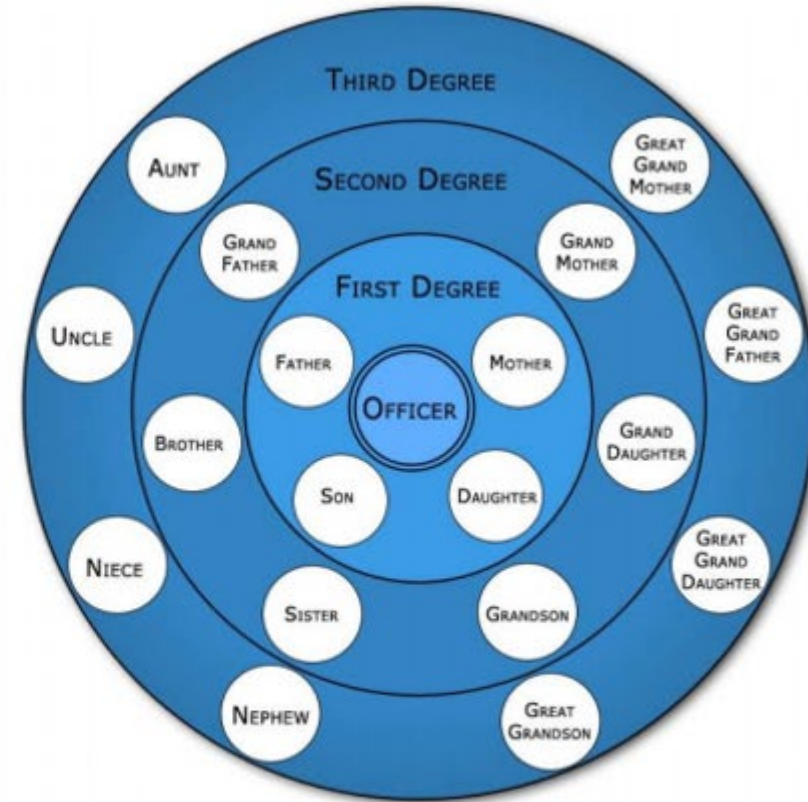
- *The city secretary shall also ensure that any information gathered or posted under subsection (b) is disseminated to all elected city officials*



# Understanding Affinity and Consanguinity



**AFFINITY KINSHIP**  
Relationship by Marriage



**CONSANGUINITY KINSHIP**  
Relationship by Blood