



**CITY OF WESTMINSTER
PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE SUMMARY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 28, 2023, the City Council of the City of Westminster introduced an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2603

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA, REPEALING SECTION 2.04.130 (PUBLIC OFFICIAL AND EMPLOYEE INTERACTIONS) CHAPTER 2.04 (CITY COUNCIL) TO TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) OF THE WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL CODE AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 5076

On October 27, 2021, the prior Westminster City Council adopted Resolution No. 5076, which included a policy governing public official and employee interactions. At the same meeting, a request was made that this same policy be formally codified into the Westminster Municipal Code. As a result, on December 8, 2021, Ordinance No. 2579 was adopted adding Section 2.04.130 (Public Official and Employee Interactions) to the Westminster Municipal Code (WMC), codifying certain rules governing interactions between City officials and staff. On January 25, 2023, the Council adopted Ordinance No. 2595, which amended Section 2.04.130 B 2 (Policy Two), deleting a reference to the mayor and city council offices needing to be separate from city hall.

The objective of Ordinance 2603 is to repeal both Section 2.040.130 (Public Official and Employee Interactions) of the WMC and Resolution No. 5076. The purpose of repealing Section 2.04.130 is because rules already exist under state law with respect to the council/manager form of government, and therefore the comprehensive regulatory scheme in Section 2.040.130 is not necessary. Section 2.040.130 is overbroad because it reduces opportunities for collegial meetings between elected members and department heads. Informal information gathering meetings between council members and department heads are necessary on occasion in order to obtain the information necessary to make important policy decisions for the city, such as information on the budget. These meetings are merely to gather information, no direction is provided, and they are already occurring pursuant to city manager direction and authority. Accordingly, repeal of Section 2.04.130 does not interfere in any way with the city manager's authority, nor do such interactions rise to the level of council members directing staff to perform in contravention of city council directives.

The City Council will conduct second reading and adopt at its Regular Meeting on July 12, 2023, scheduled to commence at 6:00 p.m.

A certified copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read and reviewed at City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, CA 92683 and/or a copy may be obtained from the City Clerk at a nominal charge during posted business hours. The proposed ordinance will also be available on the City's website as part of the Agenda Packet at <https://www.westminster-ca.gov>.

/S/

Ashton R. Arocho, MMC
City Clerk of the City of Westminster

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