

ORDINANCE NO. 159, 2025
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VIII, DIVISION 3 OF THE
CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS RELATING TO GIFT
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL
DISCLOSURE RULES

A. Under "other business" at its January 21, 2025, City Council meeting, several members of the City Council asked the Ethics Review Board ("ERB") to review the City's gift reporting requirements and consider whether they recommend changes to the reporting requirements.

B. Section 2-656 of the City Code requires every Councilmember who receives any gift, honoraria or other benefit in connection with the Councilmember's public service to file a report on or before January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year as required by Colorado Revised Statutes Section 24-6-203.

C. The ERB met on April 7, May 5, June 2 and July 7, 2025. On June 2, 2025, the ERB focused its discussion on current gift reporting requirements and whether to recommend changes to the requirements.

D. At its June meeting, the ERB reviewed and considered the state of Colorado gift reporting requirements. The ERB also reviewed and considered gift reporting requirements of other large, Colorado home rule cities, including Aurora, Denver, Colorado Springs, Boulder and Broomfield. The ERB learned that many other Colorado municipalities have gift reporting requirements identical to the City of Fort Collins or their municipal codes are silent on the topic.

E. At its June meeting, the ERB reviewed the gift reporting amendments considered at its May meeting and whether those changes would influence changes to the gift reporting requirements. The City's current gift reporting requirements do not specify what types of gifts must be reported. The ERB expressed support for adding specific gift reporting obligations to the Municipal Code, like a few other large home rule cities.

F. The ERB discussed the option to exclude reporting gifts and benefits that are given or paid by the City, an entity affiliated with or formed by the City or an organization to which the City Council has appointed the Councilmember. The ERB recommends excluding such gifts and benefits from the gift reporting requirements.

G. At its June meeting, the ERB also considered whether to require elected or appointed officials to file gift reports more or less frequently than the current quarterly basis. The ERB agreed not to recommend changes to the frequency of report filing but expressed support for adding an exception to the gift reporting requirement that allows a Councilmember to notify the City Clerk in writing if they have no gift to report.

H. The ERB's proposed amendments to Code Section 2-656 provide clarity about dollar amount thresholds and gifts that must be reported. This will provide more certainty for those subject to the reporting requirements and more transparency for the public.

I. The City Council wishes to amend Code Section 2-656 gift reporting requirements to provide clarity and transparency about gifts received by Councilmembers.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. Section 2-656 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-656. Report required.

- (a) Every Councilmember ~~who receives from any other person any gifts, honoraria or other benefits in connection with the Councilmember's public service~~ shall file, on or before January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, a report covering the period since the last report **about receipt of gifts, honoraria and other benefits. If a Councilmember files a report earlier than the due date, the Councilmember must update their report if they accept any gifts that must be reported in the intervening period. as required by Section 24-6-203, C.R.S.**
- (b) **Gifts and benefits that meet the criteria below and that were given or paid by the City, an entity affiliated with or formed by the City or an organization to which the City Council has appointed the Councilmember are excluded from these reporting requirements.**
- (c) **Reports of the following gifts and benefits must be provided:**
 - (1) **Any unsolicited item or items accepted pursuant to Code §2-576(e)(2), if valued at more than twenty-five dollars (\$25); and**
 - (2) **Costs of conferences, seminars, events or meetings (e.g., fees, meals, lodging, registration or admission, and/or transportation) and as described in Code §2-576(e)(10); and**
 - (3) **Cost of City-sponsored educational events as described in Code §2-576(e)(11) if the value is above the dollar amount established in Colorado Constitution, Article XXIX, Section 3; and**
 - (4) **Costs of meals and event tickets given to Councilmembers and their relatives pertaining to their official duties as Councilmembers and as described in §2-576(e)(15) if the value is above the dollar amount established in Colorado Constitution, Article XXIX, Section 3.**

(d) If a Councilmember has not received a gift or benefit that is required to be reported in the previous quarter, the Councilmember must notify the City Clerk in writing they have no gift to report.

Section 2. The amendments to Section 2-656 shall go into effect for reports due after January 1, 2026.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on September 16, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on October 7, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: October 17, 2025

Approving Attorney: Jenny Lopez Filkins

Exhibit: None