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Fee Amt: \$0.00 Page 1 of 3
Wells County Recorder
Carolyn C Bertsch Recorder
File# 209253

BK **74** PG **255**

WELLS COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2017- 06

**An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners
of the County of Wells Concerning the Adoption
of a Conflict of Interest Policy and Amending the Wells
County Employee Handbook**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wells ("the Board") recognizes the importance of eliminating conflicts of interest in the conduct of County business; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that conflicts of interest in serving as a public official are not only against state and federal regulations, but are also detrimental to the County's reputation and the public's confidence in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board also recognizes the value of collaboration that occurs at special events and functions such as conferences, dinners, and social outings in which County officials and employees may be guests of one (1) or more vendors that do business with the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to fulfill both the letter and spirit of federal and state regulations addressing conflicts of interest, and desires to establish a dollar threshold of \$200.00, below which any financial interest or value of any gratuity is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value; and

WHEREAS, Wells County, Indiana, provides Wells County employees with information about established terms and conditions of employment and employee benefits; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the Wells County Employee Handbook from time to time.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wells as follows:

1. The Board of Commissioners of Wells County, Indiana, establishes and adopts the following Wells County, Indiana, Conflict of Interest Policy, and which shall be added to the Employee Handbook of Wells County, Indiana, as Section 3.21, as set forth as follows:

Wells County, Indiana Conflict Of Interest Policy

The following terms apply to all public officials, officers and employees of Wells County, Indiana:

Public officials, officers or employees of the County shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from Consultants, potential Consultants, or parties to subagreements, unless in accordance with this Conflict of Interest Policy. Gratuities include invitations to events where business is often conducted and items customarily conveyed therein, including but not limited to dinners, conferences, and golf outings at which County officials and employees may be the guests of vendors that do business with the County. The aforementioned prohibition does not include gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value under \$200.00. Any financial interest under \$200.00 shall be considered not substantial in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations.

This policy conforms to the standards set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations and by the Indiana Department of Transportation. A "Consultant" is defined as an individual or firm providing engineering and design related services as a party to a contract with a recipient or subrecipient of federal assistance.

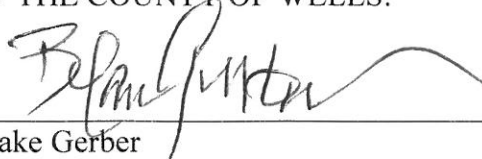
This Conflict of Interest Policy establishes a rule in addition to those imposed by the State and Federal governments regarding financial incentives for public servants and elected officials.

Any conflict with state or federal laws or regulations of this policy are to be interpreted in favor of the state or federal regulation setting precedent.

3. This Ordinance and the Wells County, Indiana Conflict of Interest Policy, shall become effective immediately upon its passage by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wells.

All as Passed and Ordained this 19th day of June, 2017.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WELLS:



Blake Gerber

Kevin Woodward

Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Tamara Robbins

ATTEST:

Beth Davis

Beth Davis, Auditor

This instrument was prepared by the Wells County Attorney, Roy R. Johnson, Attorney No. 4937-90, 222 West Market St., P.O. Box 295, Bluffton, IN 46714. *I affirm, under penalties for perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each Social Security number in this document, unless required by law. Beth Davis*