Code of Ethics

Section 1. Purpose.

Pursuant to the provisions of New York State (hereinafter State) General Municipal Law, and policies established by the State, the Kingston Local Development Corporation (hereinafter KLDC) recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for Members, which must be observed if public confidence is to be maintained in bodies responsible for public funds. It is the purpose of this resolution to establish the rules of ethical conduct for the members of the Corporation and these rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of this Corporation. This Code of Ethics (hereinafter Code), as adopted, shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to any prohibition of article eighteen of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law relating to ethical conduct and interest in contracts for municipal officers and employees.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following definitions are set forth for the purpose of this resolution:

(a) "**Member**" means a member of the Corporation, whether paid or unpaid.

(b) "**Interest**" means a pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a Member, unless the context otherwise requires.

Section 3. Standard of Conduct.

Every Member shall be subject to abide by the following standards of conduct:

(c) **Gifts**. No Member shall directly or indirectly solicit any gift or gifts, or accept or receive any gift or gifts which have an individual or cumulative value of seventy-five dollars ($75.00) or more from any individual, business or organization, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him or her in the performance of his or her official duties, or was intended as a reward for any official action on his or her part.

(d) **Confidential Information**. No Member shall disclose confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of his or her official duties, or use such information to further his or her personal interest.

(e) **Representation before any Agency for a Contingent Fee**. No Member shall receive compensation, or enter into any agreement, expressed or implied, for compensation for services rendered in relation to any matter before the Corporation whereby his or her compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by the Corporation with respect to such matter.

(f) **Disclosure of Interest.** To the extent that he or she knows thereof, a Member who participated in a discussion or gives an official opinion to the Corporation on any matter before the Corporation shall publicly disclose on the official record the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial benefits to that Member.

A Member who is an officer, stockholder or employee of any business, firm or corporation or association must fully disclose his or her private interest in any contract authorized by the Corporation prior to the vote.

No member shall participate in the selection, award or administration of procurement supported by the Corporation funds where, to the Member's knowledge, any of the following has a financial or substantial interest in any organization which may be considered for such award:

(1) the officer, employee or agent;
(2) any Member of his or her immediate family[1];
(3) a Member's spouse or partner; or
(4) a person or organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above.

Section 4. Distribution of Code of Ethics.

The Chairperson of the Corporation (or his or her designee) shall provide to each current member, a copy of the Code of Ethics and a copy shall be presented to each future member before being appointed to the Agency.

Section 5. Penalties.

In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of New York State Law, any Member who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this code may be removed from membership from the Corporation in the manner provided by law.

Section6. Effective Date.

This code shall take effect immediately upon approval by a majority of the Members at a full business meeting at which a quorum of the membership is present

[1]In determining substantial interest, the definition of immediate family means any person related within the first degree of affinity or within first degree of consanguinity to the party involved.

Approved and Adopted on March 30, 2011

Reviewed 12/20/2012 full Board
Reviewed 12/19/2013 full Board
Reviewed 12/18/2014 full Board
Reviewed 12/17/2015 full Board
Reviewed 12/15/2016 full Board
Reviewed 11/16/2017 full Board
Reviewed 12/20/2018 full Board
Reviewed 10/17/2019 full Board
Reviewed 10/15/2020 full Board
Reviewed 10/21/2021 full Board
Reviewed 10/20/2022 full Board
Reviewed 12/21/2023 full Board
Reviewed 10/17/2024 full Board
Reviewed 10/16/2025 full Board