RESOLUTION NO. 12-2023-02

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE COUNTY ATTORNEY AS ETHICS OFFICER

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly recently amended T.C.A. § 8-17-104 requiring counties and certain other governmental bodies to identity and report to the State of Tennessee the primary person responsible for administering and enforcing the entity's ethical standards;

WHEREAS, currently County employment related complaints are referred to the County Attorney for investigation and recommended action, and a proposal has been made to have the County Attorney designated as the Ethics Officer with regard to the County's Code of Ethics previously adopted by the legislative body for Dickson County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the county legislative body for the County of Dickson, Tennessee, has determined that it is in the best interests of the County that the County designate the County Attorney as the Ethics Officer and that County's Code of Ethics be amended as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the county legislative body for the County of Dickson, Tennessee, meeting in regular session, this 18th day of December, 2023, in Charlotte, Tennessee, that the County Attorney is hereby designated as the County Ethics Officer;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that the County's Code of Ethics adopted by Resolution No. 4-2007-8 dated April 16, 2007 is hereby amended by replacing Section 5 of the Code of Ethics with the language set forth on *Exhibit A* attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.

ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.

Aye 11	Pass
Nay	Abstain
APPROVED:	
Bub Prad County Mayor Bob Rial	· · .
ATTEST:	
Frame Gre	
County Clerk Luanne Greer	

EXHIBIT A AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics adopted by the county legislative body for the County of Dickson, Tennessee by Resolution No. 4-2007-8 dated April 16, 2007, is amended by replacing Section 5 therein with the following:

Section 5. Ethics Complaints.

Questions and complaints regarding violations of this Policy or of any violation of state law governing ethical conduct should be directed to the Dickson County Attorney. Complaints shall be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint, and shall forth in reasonable detail the facts upon which the complaint is based.

The Dickson County Attorney is designated as the Ethics Officer of Dickson County, Tennessee. Upon the written request of an official or employee potentially affected by a provision of this Code, the Dickson County Attorney may render an oral or written advisory ethics opinion based upon this Policy and other applicable law.

Except as otherwise provided in this Section 5, the Ethics Officer shall investigate any credible complaint filed against an official or employee charged with any violation of this Policy, or may undertake an investigation on his or her own initiative when he or she acquires information indicating a possible violation and make recommendations for action to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the Ethics Officer's judgment, constitutes a violation of this Policy.

The Ethics Officer may request that the Dickson County Board of Commissioners hire another attorney, individual or entity to act as Ethics Officer when he or she has or will have a conflict of interest in a particular matter.

Upon receipt of a written complaint filed under this Policy, or upon acquiring information indicating a possible violation, the Ethics Officer may:

- (1) Render a legal opinion and recommendation for action;
- (2) In the case of an official, refer the matter to the county legislative body for possible public censure if the county legislative body finds such action warranted;
- (3) In the case of an employee, refer the matter to the official responsible for supervision of the employee for possible disciplinary action if the official finds the discipline warranted; and
- (4) In a case involving a possible violation of state statute, refer the matter to the district attorney for possible ouster or criminal prosecution.