



Anti-harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure

The City of Thibodaux is committed to a work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and prohibits unlawful discriminatory practices, including harassment. Therefore, the City expects that all relationships among persons in the office and on job sites will be business-like and free of bias, prejudice and harassment.

It is the policy of the City to ensure equal employment opportunity without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty or status as a covered veteran. The City prohibits any such discrimination or harassment.

The City encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination or harassment. It is the policy of the City to promptly and thoroughly investigate such reports. The City prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or who participates in an investigation of such reports.

Definitions of Harassment

Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal, state and local laws. For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is defined, as in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidelines, as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when, for example a) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; b) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not-so-subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling or touching; insulting or obscene comments or

gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is also strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal, written or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates, and that a) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; b) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; or c) otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group and that is placed on walls or elsewhere on the employer's premises or circulated in the workplace, on city time or using city equipment via e-mail, phone (including voice messages), text messages, tweets, blogs, social networking sites or other means.

Individuals and Conduct Covered

These policies apply to all applicants and employees, whether related to conduct engaged in by fellow employees or someone not directly connected to the City (e.g., an outside vendor, consultant or customer).

Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business trips, business meetings and business-related social events.

Complaint Process

Individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy statement or who believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor or department director. In addition, you may report such conduct to the **Human Resources Director 985-448-5848 or Human Resources Generalist 985-448-5854, their office is located at 1233 Canal Blvd., Thibodaux**. They are available to discuss any concerns you may have and to provide information to you about our policy on harassment and our complaint process. Any complaints of harassment received by a supervisor or department director should be brought to the attention of the Human Resources department immediately.

When possible, the City encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. The City recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through complaint procedures.

The City encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained. Therefore, although no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment.

Investigation Process

Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge.

It is mandatory that all parties to an allegation of harassment, discrimination or retaliation participate in the investigation of the incident, and cooperation in the investigation of claims of harassment, discrimination or retaliation is an express element of each employee's employment with the City. Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. The City will take those steps it feels necessary to resolve the problem, which may include verbal or written reprimand, suspension or termination.

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigatory process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation and appropriate corrective action.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

If a party to a complaint does not agree with its resolution, that party may appeal to the City's Mayor or the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor. Regardless of the outcome of the investigation by the City, an employee may pursue a claim under state and/or federal law.

False and malicious complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation may be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.

Training

Each public servant shall receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on preventing sexual harassment during each full calendar year of his public employment or term of office. Supervisors and any persons designated by the City to accept or investigate a complaint of sexual harassment will receive additional education and training.