

**Public Statement Announcing The Dismissal Of The Administrative Ethics  
Complaint Against Commissioner Cochran And The Dismissal Of  
Commissioner Mark Cochran's Lawsuit Against The City of Rome**

The Rome City Commission and Commissioner Mark Cochran announce the resolution of Commissioner Cochran's lawsuit against the City of Rome challenging the City's process and conduct for investigating allegations of possible ethics violations, and the dismissal of the administrative ethics complaint filed by Director Shepard against Commissioner Cochran.

As a result of the parties' mediation, the Mayor will direct that the following three actions be taken:

First, that the City Attorney review the current Code of Ethics and make recommendations to the Commission on how best to improve and reform the Ethics Code to ensure fairness, due process, and efficiency in the bringing and in the resolution of ethics complaints.

Second, that the City Attorney propose for adoption by the Commission a Code of Conduct for City Employees and Commissioners. The Code of Conduct will be based on principles of mutual respect and a recognition of the distinct and responsible roles that the commissioners and employees play for the City to function properly and efficiently.

Third, the City Attorney will review and make recommendations for improving the Personnel Policy Handbook to ensure that the policy is sufficiently robust so that City employees who may feel aggrieved about workplace interactions with commissioners, the City Manager, supervisors, and others have an adequate means of raising and resolving such concerns.

The ethics complaint against Commissioner Cochran has been withdrawn with no finding of improper conduct by Commissioner Cochran. The lawsuit filed by Commissioner Cochran against the City has been dismissed with no findings of improper actions by the City. Commissioner Cochran and the City of Rome will bear their own litigation costs and expenses.

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