2005-16

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL BY ADDING SECTION 4-87A.2 ENTITLED "GIFT/HONORARIA BAN"

WHEREAS, the Township of Mount Laurel ("the Township") places the public trust above all else and remains steadfast in its commitment to the highest ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety the Township has determined to enact a complete ban on the offer or acceptance of gifts and honoraria to members of the Township Council, Township Manager, Township department heads, and Township employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Mount Laurel, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that the Township Ethics Policy be amended, effective immediately, to include the following provisions:

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION OF SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

No Elected Official, Department Head, or Employee of the Township of Mount Laurel, member of his/her immediate family, or business organization in which such official, department head or employee has an interest, shall accept or solicit any gift, favor, loan, service, promise of future employment or any other thing of value from any person or entity which has a municipal contract or the elected official, department head or employee has reason to believe may be awarded a contract, whether awarded through a bid process or otherwise, with the Township of Mount Laurel. Excluded from this provision are the following:

Certified to be a true copy of an ordinance as adopted by Mt Laurel Twp. Council at a regular meeting on Aug 1, 2005

Patricia Dalbe
Municipal Clerk

A. Gifts accepted on behalf of the Township and transferred immediately to the Township for its perpetual use, possession, and/or display;

B. Non-monetary awards presented in recognition of public service; and

C. Gifts conferred on account of kinship if these gifts are otherwise legally permissible and are not bartered for another benefit to influence the performance of an official duty by the Elected Official, Department Head, or Employee.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF HONORARIA

No Elected Official, Department Head, or Employee of the Township of Mount Laurel shall accept any compensation, honorarium, or gift from any person or entity in consideration of an appearance, speech, or article unless the appearance, speech, or article is wholly unrelated to the Elected Official's, Department Head's, or Employee's service to the Township of Mount Laurel; and

SECTION 3. PROHIBITION ON OFFERING OF HONORARIA

No person or entity, business entity, professional corporation, professional association or professional partnership shall offer any compensation, honorarium, or gift of tickets to any venue of entertainment or to sporting events.

SECTION 4. These policies shall be incorporated as part of the existing Township Ethics Policy at Section 4-87A.2 of the Township Code.

SECTION 5. Any person who accepts such prohibited gift or honoraria as set forth herein shall be subject to discipline, including a fine in the amount of Five Hundred ($500.00) Dollars for each such violation and/or suspension or removal.

SECTION 6. Any person who offers a prohibited gift or honoraria as set forth herein shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred ($500.00) Dollars and shall be precluded from participation in any process by which the Township of Mount Laurel awards professional contracts or contracts for enumerated unspecifiable services or other types of contracts for a period of 24 months after such finding of violation.

SECTION 7. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 8. If for any reason any section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or illegal by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

Geraldine A. Nardello
Mayor

Attest:

Patricia Halbe
Municipal Clerk

Introduction Date:	July 18, 2005
Publication Date:	July 21, 2005
Public Hearing Date:	August 1, 2005
Adopted:	August 1, 2005