

CITY OF EUREKA

Category: ADMINISTRATION

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Subject: USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR
POLITICAL PURPOSES

Date Adopted: August 9, 1976

File 1.74
Number

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To clearly define the proper conduct of all public employees concerning potential campaigns or activities.

ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY

All city employees

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all city employees.

PROCEDURES

The Attorney General has issued a letter on August 9, 1976, which provides guidelines concerning the improper use of public resources for political purposes. The letter refers to *People vs. Sperl*, 55 Cal. App. 3d 640 (1976)

The Court's decision in the Sperl case indicates the following activities are clearly illegal when they occur in a context relating to gaining or retaining public office:

- A. Any use of telephones, paper, envelopes, duplicating facilities, stamps, postage meters, bulk rate permits, office space, credit cards, automobiles, other forms of transportation or any similar items belonging to a public entity or purchased with public monies.
- B. Any use (during time which is paid for by public funds) of staff to research, draft, type, mail, present or otherwise prepare materials relating to a campaign or in the context of a campaign.
- C. Any use of publicly paid employees (during the time which is paid for public funds) for any purpose related to campaign activities, except bona fide security purposes.

All employees are encouraged to heed these guidelines and to consult with the City Attorney if there is any doubt in their mind that violations may occur.

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