



March 10, 2016 – Letter From Mayor Les Peterson

Carefree Adopts a “Code of Conduct” for all Elected and Appointed Officials

People who are elected or appointed to a position of responsibility serving the residents of Carefree are expected and required to handle all of their actions involving Carefree with the highest level of integrity. On March 1st, 2016, the Carefree Town Council adopted a written “Code of Conduct” for all of its elected and appointed officials so there could be no ambiguity in the definition of the “highest level of integrity”.

This Code of Conduct was developed by a team involving the Town Council and staff, past members of the Carefree Town Council, the Town Attorney and other knowledgeable individuals. Developing the Code was a result of the team’s review of a broad cross-section of Codes of Conduct in place in over 80% of the cities and towns in Arizona, and a legal review of recent changes to Arizona statutes. Using these sources, they drafted a Code of Conduct to meet the unique needs of Carefree.

An excerpt from the recently enacted Carefree Code of Conduct is reproduced below.

“It is the policy of the Town of Carefree to uphold, promote, and demand the highest standards of ethics and behavior from all of its officials, whether elected to Town Council or appointed to advisory boards, commissions or committees. Accordingly, all members of town council, advisory boards, commissions, and committees shall maintain the utmost standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fairness in carrying out their public duties, avoid any improprieties in their roles as public servants, comply with all applicable laws, and never use their town position or powers improperly or for personal gain.”

Elected and appointed officials are often called upon to make decisions that affect various groups and individuals. Balancing diverse constituent interests is a difficult task. While someone will always be disappointed in decisions, both elected and appointed officials shall adhere to ethical standards that eliminate disappointment borne of dishonesty, conflicts of interest, unfairness or illegality. Preservation of public trust is critical for the preservation of democracy.

All elected and appointed officials should strive to operate in the following manner:

- Honesty and Integrity
- Fairness, Impartiality and Respect
- 100% Effort

Developing and establishing the Code of Conduct is another example of involved residents of Carefree working together to help continue to make Carefree a wonderful place to live. I would like to personally thank all those involved in this project for their outstanding effort. This Code can be found in its entirety at www.carefree.org