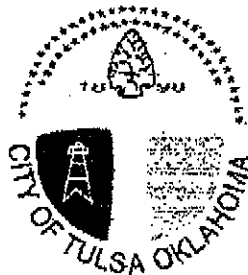


Bill LaFortune  
MAYOR

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## PRESS RELEASE

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**Date:** Dec. 30, 2005  
**Contact:** Karen Keith, 596-7407

### MAYOR ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION OF NEW ETHICS ORDINANCE

The City Charter requires the Mayor to be the contracting authority for the City of Tulsa.

A City Councilor this week filed a complaint against the mayor under the City's new ethics ordinance, questioning the mayor's service on the board of directors for the Tulsa Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (MTTC), which enters into contracts with the City.

In performing charter-required duties, Mayor Bill LaFortune signed a contract on behalf of the City with the chamber on Aug. 29, 2005. The contract is for the chamber to provide services to promote Tulsa as a convention and tourist destination and services to assist in expansion of existing businesses and to attract new businesses.

This signing was subsequent to the Tulsa City Council's approval of the city budget and appropriation to the chamber, just a few weeks earlier.

Mayor LaFortune has always abided by the highest ethical standards in the performance of his professional duties, as an attorney, judge and district attorney. He remains committed to those standards. The ethics ordinance is new and all those, including the mayor, the city council and the city auditor, who endorsed the ordinance recognized there would be unintended consequences, impossible to predict, that would require amendments to the ordinance. This is just such a case.

The Ethics Advisory Committee created by the ordinance will meet for the first time ever early next year. The new ordinance authorizes elected officials to request an opinion from the committee on ethical issues arising under the ordinance. The mayor intends to ask

that committee for advisory opinions on these specific issues. The committee's opinions will impact current and future associations because the mayor serves as a member of several boards, including the Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority and the Tulsa Airport Authority, wherein he is required as the City's contracting authority to approve those organizations' contracts.

The ordinance makes no distinction between public or private organizations. MTCC is a private, non-profit corporation. Another example is the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) board. City council members serve as members of the board and would have organizational interests similar to those cited in the complaint. A city councilor who would vote to approve appropriations to INCOG while serving on the board of INCOG will have to address the same issues.

The Mayor receives no direct or indirect financial benefit from his service on the chamber board. His role on the board is merely to be at the table for dialogue with the business community. In any event, to avoid any appearance of a conflict, the mayor's membership on the chamber board expires on Dec.31, 2005 and he will not accept another term as a member of the board until his role can be clarified and the Ethics Advisory Committee can review these issues.

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