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New Officers, Directors Elected



New Executive Committee. Front row (from left) Eunice Mayor Matt White, President and Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Trustee Mary Homan, President-elect. Back row (from left) Tijeras Mayor Gloria Chavez, Vice President and Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun, Treasurer.



New Directors. (From left) Eagle Nest Mayor Richard Cordova, Silver City Mayor Pro Tem Cynthia Ann Bettison and Springer Mayor Danny Cruz.

New Mexico Governmental Conduct Act Overview

During the 2011 Regular Legislative Session, Senate Bill 432, Governmental Conduct and Contracts introduced by Senator Tim Eichenberg, passed both Houses and was signed by the Governor. The bill made substantial changes to the state's Government Conduct Act. Local elected and appointed officials are now subject to the Act, and the changes became effective July 1, 2011.

Below is an overview of the Governmental Conduct Act as prepared by the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General's Civil Division is charged with enforcing the Act's provisions.

- Expands the definition of "public officer or employee" to include municipal, county & other local government officials and employees, thereby subjecting them, like their state government counterparts, to the requirements of the Governmental Conduct Act.
- Establishes ethical principles of public service for officers and employees of the state and political subdivisions.
- Prohibits public officers and employees from receiving any item of value in exchange for performance or promised performance of an official act.
- Restricts public officers and employees from coercing or prohibiting political activity by fellow or subordinate officers/employees.
- Prohibits and penalizes public officers/employees who take official acts that enhance their own financial interests, with certain exceptions.
- Prohibits public officers/employees from accepting honoraria for speeches or services related to their public duties.
- Requires universal disclosure of all outside employment by public officers/employees.
- Prohibits disclosure of confidential information acquired by public officers/employees obtained by virtue of their public employment for private gain.
- Places significant restrictions on contracts involving former public officers/employees.

(continued on page 2)

- Places significant restrictions on when a former public officer/employee may represent clients before government agencies.
- Prohibits government agencies from accepting bids by certain public officers/employees.
- Requires certain officials to educate persons with duties under the Governmental Conduct Act and to seek voluntary compliance before civil enforcement efforts begin.
- Prohibits public officers, employees, and their relatives from entering into sales transactions with the governmental agencies at which they are employed unless a competitive bidding process is followed.
- Prohibits public officers/employees from profiting from sales to subordinate employees or persons who are regulated by that officer/employee.
- Prohibits a public officer/employee from accepting employment from or providing contractual services to persons over whom the officer/employee has regulatory authority.
- Prohibits financial services contractors from making contributions to public officers/employees responsible for investing public money or issuing bonds and prohibits those public officers/employees from accepting the contributions.
- Prohibits employees from accepting employment with a person or business that contracts with their public employer.
- Spells out procedures for enforcement of the Governmental Conduct Act by the attorney general and district attorneys.
- Provides both civil and criminal penalties for violations of the Act.



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Belen Police Department Receives Second Five-Year Accreditation



Congratulations! New Mexico Association of Chiefs of Police President Robert Boone (left) presents the second five-year accreditation certificate to Belen Councilor Wayne Gallegos, Belen Mayor Rudy Jaramillo and Belen Police Chief Dan Robb.

The City of Belen Police Department has received a second five-year accreditation through the New Mexico Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The program is sponsored by the New Mexico Association of Chiefs of Police, the New Mexico Municipal League, the New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund and the New Mexico Association of Counties. The Belen effort was headed by Police Chief Dan Robb.

To date, eight other departments have achieved and are currently accredited: Alamogordo, Aztec, Bloomfield, Hobbs, Los Alamos, McKinley County, Portales and Taos. Several others are enrolled and working toward attaining accredited status.

The statewide program began in 2002 and came out of a recognized need for an accreditation program for law enforcement agencies that would offer meaningful, professional standards that would be both attainable and affordable.

Accreditation is an ongoing process whereby agencies evaluate policy and procedure against established standards and have compliance with those standards verified by an independent and authoritative body. Through the dedication to service and professionalism evidenced by the attainment of accredited status, law enforcement agencies can positively affect the communities they serve.

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