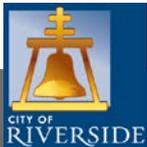


City Council and the RPU Board – Communications 101

Presented by Susan D. Wilson
Assistant City Attorney
August 28, 2015

1907 CITY CHARTER

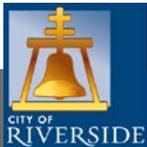
- City Council and RPU Board formed
- “Legislative power of the city is hereby vested in a mayor and common council . . . of six members.”
- Department of Public Utilities “shall be under the control and management of a board of public utilities”
- Rates approved by both



COMMUNICATIONS

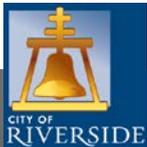
Questions raised at last joint meeting:

- Research best practices for communication
- Consult CAO – proper way to interact
- Concern about intimidation
- Unintended influence?



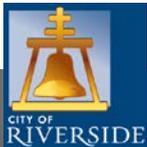
CITY CHARTER

- Voters imposed no prohibition on communications



CODE OF ETHICS

- “Ensuring Impartiality” in Quasi-Judicial Capacity
 - Boardmembers shall not contact CC members on a subject to be **subsequently** heard by the City Council for the purpose of **influencing** the City Council’s decision
 - Example: customer appeal
- “Ensuring Against Undue Influence”
 - CC members shall not contact Boardmembers “for the purpose of **influencing** that member”



CITY COUNCIL STANDING RULES

- City Council works through the RPU Board chair
- “It has been the practice of the Mayor and City Council to not participate in Board and Commission meetings for the purpose of, and to avoid perception of, influencing the outcome of said meetings.”

