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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES BULLETIN REGARDING GIFT ACCEPTANCE**

At its meeting today, the Ohio Ethics Commission issued a [bulletin](#) with updated guidance regarding the receipt of gifts and entertainment. This guidance is to help public officials and employees follow the requirements for accepting and disclosing such gifts in general and also those from family, friends, and acquaintances.

The [bulletin](#) outlines prohibitions regarding public officials or employees acceptance of substantial gifts from vendors to their public agencies. The document contains specific guidance for those who are required to annually file a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Ethics Commission.

The [bulletin](#) also reminds these officials and employees that the Ethics Law requires that they determine the value and source of an item before accepting it. Nominal gifts are not prohibited under the Ethics Law and there is normally no prohibition from accepting a gift from family or personal friends.

“Questions about gifts and entertainment occur among Ohioans serving at various public levels,” said Chairman Merom Brachman. “This update is to give guidance for all seeking to meet standards of conduct under statutory rules in use in Ohio for many years.”

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