

**Ordinance of the County Board
of
Kankakee County, Illinois**

RE: ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE FOR WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has provided for the rights of employees who alert law enforcement, government agencies or their internal compliance officers to violations of Federal, State and Municipal law (“whistleblowing”), by statute codified 740 ILCS 174/1 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Illinois Whistleblower Act; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of Kankakee County supports the acts of employees reporting such violations, in good faith, to the appropriate authority; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect any person who engages in whistleblowing, in good faith, from retaliation, harassment, abuse, threats, discrimination, and/or any adverse employment consequences; and,

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Committee at its regularly scheduled meeting of February 15, 2017, having reviewed, discussed and considered the matter, recommends to revise and amend the Kankakee County Code, Chapter 2, Article IV Government Ethics to include “Division 7 Whistleblower Protection” and include the below ordinance as part of this recommended Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Kankakee County at this regularly scheduled meeting of March 14, 2017 after review, discussion and consideration, that Chapter 2, Article IV of the Kankakee County Code, Government Ethics, be amended to include “Division 7 Whistleblower Protection” and include the following ordinance:

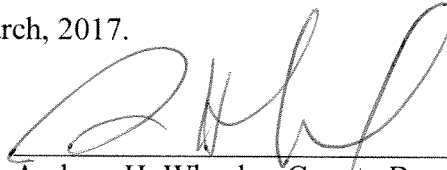
Section 2-286 Whistleblower Protection

- (a) Whenever any officer or employee of Kankakee County reasonably believes evidence exists that another officer or employee has perpetrated gross mismanagement, gross misuse or waste of public resources or funds, abuse of authority in connection with the administration of a public program or execution of a public contract, a violation of a federal, state, or local law, rule or regulation which is not merely of a technical or minimal nature, or a substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety exists, such person shall bring this evidence to the immediate attention of the State’s Attorney, the Auditor, or the employee’s department head. In the event that one of the above named officials or employees is not available, the person shall submit this evidence to the duly authorized designee acting in the stead of the absent official or employee.
- (b) All Officers and Employees shall be obligated to cooperate during the course of an investigation and to comply with requests for information from the Ethics Commission and State’s Attorney. Subject to constitutional or statutory limitations, the failure or refusal of any person to comply with reasonable requests for information shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and may be considered by the ultimate jurisdictional authority as grounds for discipline consistent with the penalties and enforcement provisions of this ordinance.
- (c) Any person who reports a violation or concern, in good faith, shall not be subjected to retaliation, harassment, abuse, threats, and discrimination or any adverse employment

consequences as a result of coming forward. This section shall not apply to any person who makes a report known to that person to be false.

- (d) Any person who reports a violation or concern in good faith, on behalf of another person, shall not be subjected to retaliation, harassment, abuse, threats, and discrimination or any adverse employment consequences as a result of coming forward. This section shall not apply to any person who makes a report known to that person to be false on his or her own behalf or on behalf of another.

PASSED and approved this 14th day of March, 2017.



Andrew H. Wheeler, County Board Chairman

ATTEST:


Bruce Clark, County Clerk