

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Town is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment. There shall be no discrimination against any employee or applicant on the basis of race, ancestry, religion, gender, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, sexual orientation, place of birth, citizenship, veteran status, or disability, as defined and required by state and federal laws. This commitment extends to every aspect of employment, including recruitment, selection, placement, training, compensation, promotion, transfer, layoff, recall and disciplinary action. The responsibility for administering this policy is delegated to Department Heads and Supervisors.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The Town is committed to establishing a professional and congenial work environment and will take reasonable steps to insure that the work environment is pleasant for all who work here. All employees are expected to treat others with courtesy, consideration and professionalism. The Town will not tolerate the harassment of any employee or any member of the public by any other employee, supervisor or customer. Employees may not use epithets, slurs or other terms or language designed to threaten, insult, intimidate or show hostility to another. Employees are prohibited from posting or circulating in the workplace any written or graphic materials or other objects that attack, defame, belittle, degrade or show hostility or aversion to any person or group of people. In addition, harassment for any discriminatory reason, such as race, gender, national origin, disability, age, religion or veteran status is prohibited not only by State and Federal laws but also by the policies of the Town. The Town prohibits not only unlawful harassment but other types of unprofessional and discourteous conduct. Accordingly, derogatory, racial, ethnic, religious, age, gender, sexual orientation, sexual or other inappropriate remarks, slurs, "jokes," written material or actions will not be tolerated in the workplace.

Included in this prohibition is a prohibition against sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or any other visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a condition of the individual's employment;
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as a basis for an employment decision affecting the harassed employee; or
3. The harassment has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or of creating an environment which is intimidating, hostile or offensive to the employee.

Each employee must exercise his own good judgment to avoid engaging in conduct that may be perceived by others as harassment. Forms of harassment include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal: Repeated sexual innuendos, racial or sexual epithets, derogatory slurs, off-color jokes, propositions, threats or suggestive or insulting sounds;
2. Visual/Non-Verbal: Derogatory posters, cartoons, telefaxes, drawings, suggestive objects or pictures, graphic commentaries, leering or obscene gestures;
3. Physical: Unwanted physical contact including touching, interference with the individual's normal work movements or threatening gestures; and
4. Other: Making or threatening reprisals as a result of a negative response to a harassing action.

Any employee or applicant who feels that he or she has been subjected to harassment or otherwise has been discriminated against due to his or her race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or veteran status or who witnesses such harassment of or discrimination against another employee, should promptly report the incident. A complaint form is available in the Office Coordinator's Office. Although employees are encouraged to discuss issues of alleged harassment or discrimination with their immediate supervisor, they may by-pass their immediate supervisor and report the incident directly to a Town Board Member. Further, any supervisors who gains information concerning allegations of harassment or discrimination is to immediately report the same to the town board.

All complaints of harassment or discrimination will be investigated. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes harassment or discrimination, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the harassment and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred will be considered. Except as deemed necessary to investigate and remedy violations, management will keep any complaint and the information revealed in the investigation as confidential as possible.

All employees are strongly encouraged to use the complaint procedures set forth herein if they believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment. Before it becomes a serious problem and the conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates a hostile environment, employees are encouraged to notify management of conduct that may violate this policy. That will allow management time to address the situation.

The initiation of a complaint, in good faith, will not be grounds for discipline. However, deliberately reporting false allegations may be considered as a form of harassment and may subject an employee to appropriate discipline.

If a person is determined to have violated this policy, the Town will take appropriate action designed to prevent any further incidents of inappropriate behavior. If necessary, this could include disciplinary action up to and including termination. In addition, management and supervisory employees may face disciplinary action if they fail to take corrective action after becoming aware of the existence of harassment or discrimination, regardless of whether the victim has filed a formal complaint.