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State Of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

11-01

January 4, 2011

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, as Governor of the State of Rhode Island, I expect all officers and employees under my direction, supervision and control to be accountable to the citizens of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the citizens of Rhode Island believe in and trust their state government; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of this state deserve a government which maintains the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and responsibility of the officers and employees of the state to deliver services to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, ethics and integrity in government are inextricably linked to the efficient delivery of government services to the citizens of Rhode Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, as my first Executive Order, which Order is applicable to myself, and all officers and employees within my jurisdiction, hereby order and direct the following:

1. All persons subject to this Order shall comply with the mandates of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics, as stated in Title 36, Chapter 14 of the Rhode Island General Laws and its related rules and regulations, and shall abide by the decisions of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission affecting such officers and employees.

2. All persons subject to this Order shall likewise comply with other laws pertaining to ethics and integrity in state service.

3. The director of each department of state government (or an appointee designated by him or her) or the chairperson of each board, commission or other body subject to this Order shall be designated as the Public Ethics Officer for such department, board, commission or body.

4. The Public Ethics Officers shall be proactive in publicizing this Order to the officers and employees under their jurisdiction and informing them of its contents. To facilitate broad understanding of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics across governmental departments, boards, commissions and bodies, all department directors, Public Ethics Officers and other key staff shall attend a mandatory ethics training session to be conducted by the staff of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

5. The Public Ethics Officers shall take appropriate action to encourage inquiries from officers and employees under their jurisdiction with respect to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics.

6. The Governor's Chief Legal Officer is designated as the Public Ethics Officer for the executive offices of the Governor and for each of the other Public Ethics Officers referred to in this Order. Each Public Ethics Officer shall promptly notify the Chief Legal Officer as to all questions concerning ethical behavior raised by officers and employees. The Chief Legal Officer may, in appropriate circumstances, seek the advice of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission with respect to issues pertaining to the executive offices of the Governor and the other Public Ethics Officers. The Chief Legal Officer shall also be responsible for ensuring that Public Ethics Officers are notified of relevant ethical issues in the application and enforcement of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics.

7. The Governor's Chief Legal Officer is also designated as the Public Ethics Officer for citizens with concerns about ethical behavior involving state government. The Chief Legal Officer may, in appropriate circumstances, share information with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission relating to such behavior, seek the Commission's advice with respect to ethics-related concerns and work with the Commission to address such concerns appropriately.

8. The Public Ethics Officers shall advise officers and employees under their jurisdictions with respect to issues relating to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics, this Order, and other laws pertaining to ethics and integrity in state service, including but not limited to the right of such officers and employees to request advisory opinions from the Rhode Island Ethics Commission with respect to the Code of Ethics and such laws. The Chief Legal Officer, with respect to the other Public Ethics Officers, shall from time to time consult with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission with respect to issues which rightly should be

addressed by the Commission and, if appropriate, seek advisory opinions from the Commission.

9. All persons covered by this Order are encouraged to act only in the most ethical manner consistent with law and to bring to the attention of their supervisors and Public Ethics Officers their concerns with respect to the application of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics.

10. In addition to the foregoing, all officers and employees under my jurisdiction shall be mindful of their responsibilities under law under the Access to Public Records Act, as stated in Title 38, Chapter 2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Open Meetings Act, as stated in Title 42, Chapter 46 of the Rhode Island General Laws, and other similar laws dealing with government transparency.

11. All persons covered by this Order are to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty, accountability and integrity in delivering this administration's executive leadership to the citizens of Rhode Island.

12. Without limitation on the foregoing, the following code of conduct is mandated for officers and employees under the jurisdiction of the office of the Governor:

RHODE ISLAND EXECUTIVE BRANCH
CODE OF CONDUCT

~~INTEGRITY AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND~~
EMPLOYEES

I declare my commitment to conduct myself at all times according to the highest principles of integrity and professional conduct in carrying out my public responsibilities and will adhere to the following standards:

- I will not use public service for private gain. In all matters of official concern, the public interest will take precedence over any private interest.
- All my acts will be guided and inspired by a commitment to public service and by respect for the Constitution and the laws that emanate from it.
- I will perform my duties to the best of my ability without favor or prejudice and in a manner that merits the trust and confidence of the public.
- I will properly care for and preserve all public property in my custody or control and will not use public property in a manner inconsistent with the laws or regulations of this State.
- I will respect and safeguard all confidential information to which I have access in the course of my official duties and will not abuse or misuse any information with which I am entrusted.
- I will serve the public with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness.
- I will uphold the ethical and moral principles in the Code of Ethics in the R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 36-14, the rules and regulations promulgated under such Code of Ethics, and this Code of Conduct.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

So Ordered:

Lincoln D. Chafee