

Ethics Ordinance 2025-01

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly previously enacted the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/1 et seq., which regulates ethical conduct, political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by governmental officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2025, the Board of Trustees of Talcott Free Library District adopted and enacted an Ethics, Political Activities, and Gift Ordinance ("Ethics Ordinance") in accordance with 5 ILCS 430/70-5, which requires all units of local government to adopt ordinances or resolutions regulating the political activities of, and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by, the officers and employees of such units "in a manner no less restrictive" than the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Talcott Free Library District now desires to amend its Ethics Ordinance to update various provisions in accordance with state statute and to incorporate conflicts of interest provisions consistent with state statute, as set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TALCOTT FREE LIBRARY DISTRICT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein and made a part of this Ordinance as if fully set forth in this Section 1.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance will be in full force and effect upon passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

PASSED by the Board of Trustees of the Talcott Free Library District, Winnebago County, Illinois this 21st day of April 2025.



Board President



Board Secretary

Exhibit A

Ethics Ordinance

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

Section 1-1. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

"Campaign for elective office" means any activity in furtherance of an effort to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any federal, State, or local public office or office in a political organization, or the selection, nomination, or election of Presidential or Vice-Presidential electors, but does not include activities (i) relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action, (ii) relating to collective bargaining, or (iii) that are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

"Candidate" means a person who has filed nominating papers or petitions for nomination or election to an elected office, or who has been appointed to fill a vacancy in nomination, and who remains eligible for placement on the ballot at a regular election, as defined in section 1-3 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/1-3).

"Collective bargaining" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/3).

"Compensated time" means, with respect to an employee, any time worked by or credited to the employee that counts toward any minimum work time requirement imposed as a condition of his or her employment, but for purposes of this Ordinance, does not include any designated holidays, vacation periods, personal time, compensatory time off or any period when the employee is on a leave of absence. With respect to officers or employees whose hours are not fixed, "compensated time" includes any period of time when the officer is on premises under the control of the employer and any other time when the officer or employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

"Compensatory time off" means authorized time off earned by or awarded to an employee to compensate in whole or in part for time worked in excess of the minimum work time required of that employee as a condition of his or her employment.

"Contribution" has the same meaning as that term is defined in section 9-1.4 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9-1.4).

"Employee" means a person employed by the Library whether on a full time or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract, whose duties are subject to the direction and control of an employer with regard to the material details of how the work is to be performed, but does not include an independent contractor.

"Employer" means the Talcott Free Library District.

"Gift" means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including, but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of an officer or employee.

"Leave of absence" means any period during which an employee does not receive (i) compensation for employment, (ii) service credit towards pension benefits, and (iii) health insurance benefits paid for by the employer.

"Officer" means a person who holds, by election or appointment, an office created by statute or ordinance, regardless of whether the officer is compensated for service in his or her official capacity.

"Political organization" means a party, committee, association, fund, or other organization (whether or not incorporated) that is required to file a statement of organization with the State Board of Elections or a county clerk under Section 9-3 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9-3), but only with regard to those activities that require filing with the State Board of Elections or a county clerk.

"Political activity" means any activity in support of or in connection with any campaign for elective office or any political organization, but does not include activities (i) relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action, (ii) relating to collective bargaining, or (iii) that are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

"Prohibited political activity" means, to the extent prohibited in Article II, the following political activities:

- (1) Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event by officers and employees as further set forth herein.
- (2) Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
- (3) Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
- (4) Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
- (5) Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
- (6) Assisting at the polls on election day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

- (7) Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
- (8) Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- (9) Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
- (10) Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
- (11) Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- (12) Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- (13) Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- (14) Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
- (15) Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

"Prohibited source" means any person or entity who:

- (1) Is seeking official action (i) by an officer or (ii) by an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee;
- (2) Does business or seeks to do business (i) with the officer or (ii) with an employee, or with the officer or another employee directing that employee;
- (3) Conducts activities regulated (i) by the officer or (ii) by an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee;
- (4) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the officer or employee.

ARTICLE II

PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Section 2-1. Adoption by Reference.

The regulations of Sections 5-15 (5 ILCS 430/5-15) of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable to the officers and employees of Talcott Free Library District to the extent required by Section 70-5 of the Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5).

Section 2-2. Prohibited Political Activities.

(1) No officer or employee shall intentionally perform any prohibited political activity during any compensated time, as defined herein. No officer or employee shall intentionally use any property or resources of the Library in connection with any prohibited political activity. This does not prohibit candidates from circulating nominating petitions on public sidewalks outside of the Library building.

(2) At no time shall any officer or employee intentionally require any other officer or employee to perform any prohibited political activity (i) as part of that officer or employee's duties, (ii) as a condition of employment, or (iii) during any compensated time off (such as holidays, vacation or personal time off).

(3) No officer or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any prohibited political activity in consideration for that officer or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise, nor shall any officer or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any prohibited political activity.

(4) Nothing in this Section prohibits activities that are permissible for an officer or employee to engage in as part of his or her official duties, or activities that are undertaken by an officer or employee on a voluntary basis which are not prohibited by this Ordinance.

(5) No person either (i) in a position that is subject to recognized merit principles of public employment or (ii) in a position the salary for which is paid in whole or in part by federal funds and that is subject to the Federal Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration applicable to grant-in-aid programs, shall be denied or deprived of employment or tenure solely because he or she is a member or an officer of a political committee, of a political party, or of a political organization or club.

(6) Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit use of Library public meeting rooms for "candidates' forums," candidate speaking engagements open to the public, or meetings of political groups or organizations on the basis of the same meeting policies as other groups.

(7) Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit Library officers or employees in the exercise of their rights of speech and assembly voluntarily to speak in behalf of, or attend meetings of, candidates and ballot issues, or to participate voluntarily in other political activities, so long as such activities are not performed during compensated time or do not use any substantial property or resources of the Library.

(8) Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit the posting of names, brief biographies, and photographs of Library Board members and candidates on the Library web site.

ARTICLE III

GIFT BAN

Section 3-1. Adoption by Reference.

The regulations of Article 10 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/10-10 through 10-40) are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable to the officers and employees of Talcott Free Library District to the extent required by Section 70-5 of the Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5).

Section 3-2. Gift ban.

Except as permitted by this Article, no officer or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with any officer or employee (collectively referred to herein as "recipients"), shall intentionally solicit or accept any gift from any prohibited source, as defined herein, or which is otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this Section.

Section 3-3. Exceptions.

Each exception listed in this Section is mutually exclusive and independent of every other. Section 3-2 is not applicable to the following:

- (1) Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
- (2) Anything for which the officer or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
- (3) Any (i) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code or (ii) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.
- (4) Educational materials and missions.
- (5) Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss business.
- (6) A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.
- (7) Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as:
 - (i) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals;

(ii) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and

(iii) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other officers or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.

(8) Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are (i) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared or (ii) catered. For the purposes of this Section, "catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.

(9) Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of an officer or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the officer or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.

(10) Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. For the purpose of this Act, "intragovernmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee from another officer or employee, and "inter-governmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee by an officer or employee of another governmental entity.

(11) Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.

(12) Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Section 3-4. Disposition of gifts.

An officer or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the officer or employee, does not violate this Ordinance if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now or hereafter amended, renumbered, or succeeded.

ARTICLE IV

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Section 4-1. Adoption by Reference.

The regulations of Sections 3 and 3.1 of the Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act (50 ILCS 105/3; 3.1) are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable to the officers and employees of the Library.

Section 4-2. Prohibited Interests.

(1) No member of the Library Board of Trustees may be in any manner financially interested directly in their own name or indirectly in the name of any other person, association, trust, or corporation, in any contract or the performance of any work in the making or letting of which a Board member may be called upon to act or vote.

(2) No member of the Library Board of Trustees may represent, either as agent or otherwise, any person, association, trust, or corporation, with respect to any application or bid for any contract or work in regard to which the Board member may be called upon to vote.

(3) No member of the Library Board of Trustees may take or receive, or offer to take or receive, either directly or indirectly, any money or other thing of value as a gift or bribe or means of influencing their vote or action in their official capacities.

Section 4-3. Exceptions to Prohibited Interests.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4-2, a Board member may have an ownership, employment, or family interest in any contract, business, or transaction if such interest meets one of the following exceptions:

(1) The contract is with a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation or cooperative association in which the official or employee has less than a seven and one-half percent (7½%) share in the ownership; and

(i) the Board member abstains from voting on the contract after publicly disclosing the nature and extent of their interest prior to or during deliberations concerning the proposed award of the contract; and

(ii) the award of the contract is approved by a majority vote of the Board; and

(iii) the contract is awarded after sealed bids to the lowest responsible bidder if the contract amount exceeds; and

(iv) awarding the contract would not cause the aggregate amount of all such contracts so awarded to the same person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or cooperative association in the same fiscal year to exceed \$25,000; or

(2) the award of the contract is approved by a majority vote of the Board;

(i) the contract amount does not exceed \$2,000.00; and

(ii) awarding the contract would not cause the aggregate amount of all contracts so awarded to the same person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or cooperative association in the same fiscal year to exceed \$4,000; and

(iii) the Board member abstains from voting on the contract after publicly disclosing the nature and extent of their interest prior to or during deliberations concerning the proposed award of the contract; or

(3) The contract is with a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation or cooperative association in which the Board member has less than a 1% share in the ownership; and

(i) the Board member abstains from voting on the contract after publicly disclosing the nature and extent of their interest prior to or during deliberations concerning the proposed award of the contract; and

(ii) the award of the contract is approved by a majority vote of the Board; or

(4) The Board member's interest in a public utility company providing utility services to the Library is less than a seven and one-half percent (7½%) share and the utility's rates are approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(5) A member of the Library Board of Trustees may also hold a position on the board of a not-for-profit corporation that is interested in a contract, work, or business of the Library under either of the following circumstances:

(i) If the member is appointed by the Library Board of Trustees to represent the Library's interests on the board of a not-for-profit corporation, the member may actively vote on matters involving either the Library Board of Trustees or the not-for-profit board, as long as the membership on the board of the not-for-profit is not a paid position, except the not-for-profit board may reimburse the trustee for expenses incurred as a result of membership on the non-for-profit board; or

ii) If the Library Board of Trustees does not appoint one of its members to the governing body of a not-for-profit corporation, then a member of the Library Board of Trustees may continue serving on both the Library Board of Trustees and the board of the not-for-profit corporation, as long as the member abstains from voting on any proposition before the Library Board of Trustees directly involving the not-for-profit corporation, and, for those matters, the member shall not be counted as present for the purposes of a quorum of the Library Board of Trustees.

Section 4-4. Prohibited Contracts Void.

No contract which would cause a violation of Article IV, Section 4-2 of this Ordinance shall be approved by the Library Board of Trustees, and any contract which is approved is void ab initio.

ARTICLE V

ETHICS ADVISOR AND ETHICS COMMISSION

Section 5-1. Ethics Advisor.

The Library Director, with the advice and consent of the Board of Library Trustees, may designate an Ethics Advisor for the Library if circumstances should require. The Ethics Advisor, if appointed, shall provide guidance to the officers and employees of the Library concerning the interpretation of and compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance and State ethics

laws. The Ethics Advisor shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Board of Library Trustees.

Section 5-2. Ethics Commission.

There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Ethics Commission of Talcott Free Library District. The Commission shall be comprised of three members appointed by the Library Director with the advice and consent of the Board of Library Trustees. No person shall be appointed as a member of the Commission who is related, either by blood or by marriage up to the degree of first cousin, to any elected officer of Talcott Free Library District. The Commission members will be appointed in the event of a received complaint.

Section 5-3. At the first meeting of the Commission, the initial appointees shall draw lots to determine their initial terms. Two commissioners shall serve 2-year terms, and the third commissioner shall serve a one-year term. Thereafter, all commissioners shall be appointed to 2-year terms. Commissioners may be reappointed to serve subsequent terms. At the first meeting of the Commission, the commissioners shall choose a chairperson from their number. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairperson or any 2 commissioners. A quorum shall consist two commissioners, and official action by the commission shall require the affirmative vote of two members.

Section 5-4. The Library Director, with the advice and consent of Board of Library Trustees, may remove a commissioner in case of incompetency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office after service on the commissioner by certified mail, return receipt requested, of a copy of the written charges against the commissioner and after providing an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel upon not less than 10 days' notice. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

Section 5-5. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To promulgate procedures and rules governing the performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers.

(2) Upon receipt of a signed, notarized, written complaint, to investigate, conduct hearings and deliberations, issue recommendations for disciplinary actions, impose fines in accordance with Section 6-1 of this Ordinance and refer violations of Article II or Article III of this Ordinance to the appropriate attorney for prosecution. The Commission shall, however, act only upon the receipt of a written complaint alleging a violation of this Ordinance and not upon its own prerogative.

(3) To receive information from the public pertaining to its investigations and to require additional information and documents from persons who may have violated the provisions of this Ordinance.

(4) To compel the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of books and papers pertinent to an investigation. It is the obligation of all officers and employees of the Talcott Free Library District to cooperate with the Commission during the course of its investigations. Failure or refusal to cooperate with requests by the Commission shall constitute grounds for discipline or discharge.

(5) The powers and duties of the Commission are limited to matters clearly within the purview of this Ordinance.

Section 5-6. (a) Complaints alleging a violation of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Ethics Commission.

(b) Within 3 business days after the receipt of a complaint, the Commission shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice to the respondent that a complaint has been filed against him or her and a copy of the complaint. The Commission shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a confirmation of the receipt of the complaint to the complainant within 3 business days after receipt by the commission. The notices to the respondent and the complainant shall also advise them of the date, time, and place of the meeting to determine the sufficiency of the complaint and to establish whether probable cause exists to proceed.

(c) Upon not less than 48 hours' public notice, the Commission shall meet to review the sufficiency of the complaint and, if the complaint is deemed sufficient to allege a violation of this Ordinance, to determine whether there is probable cause, based on the evidence presented by the complainant, to proceed. The meeting may be closed to the public to the extent authorized by the Open Meetings Act. The Commission shall issue notice to the complainant and the respondent of the Commission's ruling on the sufficiency of the complaint and, if necessary, on probable cause to proceed within 7 business days after receiving the complaint. If the complaint is deemed sufficient to allege a violation of Article 10 of this Ordinance and there is a determination of probable cause, then the Commission's notice to the parties shall include a hearing date scheduled within 4 weeks after the complaint's receipt. Alternatively, the Commission may elect to notify in writing the attorney designated by the corporate authorities to prosecute such actions and request that the complaint be adjudicated judicially. If the complaint is deemed not sufficient to allege a violation or if there is no determination of probable cause, then the Commission shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice to the parties of the decision to dismiss the complaint, and that notice shall be made public. If the complaint is deemed sufficient to allege a violation of Article 11 of this Ordinance, then the Commission shall notify in writing the attorney designated by the corporate authorities to prosecute such actions and shall transmit to the attorney the complaint and all additional documents in the custody of the Commission concerning the alleged violation.

(d) On the scheduled date and upon at least 48 hours' public notice of the meeting, the Commission shall conduct a hearing on the complaint and shall allow both parties the opportunity to present testimony and evidence. The hearing may be closed to the public only if authorized by the Open Meetings Act.

(e) Within 30 days after the date the hearing or any recessed hearing is concluded, the Commission shall either (i) dismiss the complaint or (ii) issue a recommendation for discipline to the alleged violator and to the Library Director, or impose a fine upon the violator, or both. The particular findings in the case, any recommendation for discipline, and any fine imposed shall be a matter of public information.

(f) If the hearing was closed to the public, the respondent may file a written demand for a public hearing on the complaint within 7 business days after the issuance of the recommendation for discipline or imposition of a fine, or both. The filing of the demand shall stay the enforcement of the recommendation or fine. Within 14 days after receiving the

demand, the Commission shall conduct a public hearing on the complaint upon at least 48 hours' public notice of the hearing and allow both parties the opportunity to present testimony and evidence. Within 7 days thereafter, the Commission shall publicly issue a final recommendation to the alleged violator and to the Library Director or impose a fine upon the violator, or both.

(g) If a complaint is filed during the 60 days preceding the date of any election at which the respondent is a candidate, the Commission shall render its decision as required under subsection (e) within 7 days after the complaint is filed, and during the 7 days preceding that election, the Commission shall render such decision before the date of that election, if possible. (h) The Commission may fine any person who intentionally violates any provision of Article III of this Ordinance in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000. The Commission may fine any person who knowingly files a frivolous complaint alleging a violation of this Ordinance in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000. The Commission may recommend any appropriate discipline up to and including discharge. (i) A complaint alleging the violation of this Act must be filed within one year after the alleged violation.

ARTICLE VI

PENALTIES

Section 6-1. Penalties.

- (1) A person who intentionally violates any provision of Article II of this Ordinance is subject to a fine in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.
- (2) A person who intentionally violates any provision of Article III of this Ordinance is subject to a fine in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000.
- (3) Any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of this Ordinance to the local enforcement authorities, the State's Attorney or any other law enforcement official is subject to a fine in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.
- (4) A violation of Article II of this Ordinance may be prosecuted as a criminal offense. The prosecution shall be under and conform to the rules of criminal procedure. Conviction shall require the establishment of the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.
- (5) A violation of Article III of this Ordinance may be prosecuted as a quasi-criminal offense.
- (6) In addition to any other penalty that may be applicable, whether criminal or civil, an officer or employee who intentionally violates any provision of Article II or Article III of this Ordinance is subject to discipline or discharge.
- (7) Any person who violates any other provision of this Ordinance or who intentionally obstructs or interferes with an investigation conducted under this Act by an inspector general, or who intentionally makes a false, frivolous, or bad faith allegation may be subject to a fine in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

(8) For a violation of any Section of this Ordinance, the Ethics Commission may recommend appropriate action against a violator, up to and including discharge of an employee.

ARTICLE VII

IMPLEMENTATION

Section 7-1. Severability

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval according to law, and any resolutions or ordinances in conflict therewith are hereby repealed; and should any part of this Ordinance be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect any other provisions or parts of this act, but shall be severable therefrom.