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December 12, 2019

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES FORMAL ADVISORY OPINION

At its meeting on December 6, 2019, the Ohio Ethics Commission issued Advisory Opinion 2019-01. The opinion addresses whether public officials and employees can accept certain ceremonial gifts.

“The Ohio Ethics Law prohibits public officials and employees from accepting substantial gifts from vendors, potential vendors, and entities they regulate or that have a specific issue before the public agency,” said Executive Director Paul M. Nick. “The Commission recognizes, though, that some gifts are ceremonial in nature and are not likely to improperly influence those in public service.”

The advisory opinion concludes that public employees and officials are not prohibited from accepting unsolicited, purely ceremonial gifts that have little intrinsic or marketable value. Common items of this nature may include personalized plaques, pictures, framed certificates, trophies, or similar items given for presentation purposes.

Advisory Opinion 2019-01 can be viewed at [this link](#).

The next meeting of the Ohio Ethics Commission is scheduled for January 23, 2020 at 12:45pm.

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