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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CLINTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES ISSUE STATEMENT ON REYNOLDS SENTENCING AND
RENEW THE CALL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ETHICS POLICY**

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI – The 17 year sentence imposed on former Trustee Dean Reynolds may have concluded the judicial process to help bring some sense of justice for his corrupt behavior. But it would be a further injustice to the citizens of Clinton Township to act as if Reynolds' sentencing eliminates the need for a strong ethics policy to help prevent further corrupt behavior by officials and employees.

The sentencing judge made note of Reynold's lack of remorse and "astounding level of denial". Sadly, in Clinton Township, some of our colleagues may also be in denial about the need to institute a strong ethics policy to hold all public officials and employees accountable. One went so far as to dispute the Judge's assertion that the Township's reputation has been damaged, and insist that the sentence alone removes a "cloud" over the Township, papering over the history of the betrayal of the public trust that extended far beyond Mr. Reynolds and includes the former Planning Director.

In June of 2018, we issued the call for an outside investigation into the activities of the former Township Planning Director. The investigation to determine any misdeeds must continue and be resolved.

Since August of 2018, we've been met with resistance, delay and obstruction by others on the Township Board in our attempt to enact a strong ethics policy to protect the public trust and tax dollars.

We proposed an ethics policy that would:

1. Ban Gifts—to prohibit elected officials and employees from soliciting or accepting a gift from any entity or employee of any entity contracting with the Township.
2. Require Financial Disclosure—require Township elected officials complete a financial disclosure form that list all sources of income, property interests and assets for themselves and their spouse.
3. Require Private Business Disclosure—require township elected officials and employees disclose any interest in a private business held by themselves, or a member of their immediate family, seeking to business with Clinton Township.

4. Disclose Nepotism--require township elected officials and employees disclose any relatives that may be employed by the Township.
5. Institute Ethics Training—direct the Human Resources Department develop an online ethics training program to be administered to all Township employees.
6. Political Solicitation Ban—prohibit elected official from soliciting political donations from township employees or township contractors.
7. Document Disclaimer—require anything printed, designed, produced, or distributed using Township resources that includes the name, photo or image of an elected official include “PROVIDED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.”
8. Ethics Webpage—require the Township’s homepage include a link to the Ethics webpage that features a copy of the Ethics Policy, the Purchasing and Bid Policy, an updated list of Township Vendors, an archive of documented financial disclosure forms, blank and blank disclosure forms.

Despite the opposition we are facing from some elected officials, we are firm in our belief that we need to act and act now to send a clear message to all township residents that we serve the public and need to be partners in assuring that the kinds of corruption we have witnessed never happens again.

It’s time the Township Board act now to regain the public’s trust and improve Clinton Township’s reputation, by being a leader in ethics reform.

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