

**Rantoul Village Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
Louis B. Schelling Memorial Board Room
Rantoul Municipal Building**

**January 9, 2018
Immediately following Study Session at 6:00 pm**

Order of Business

Board Packet Page(s)

1. Call to Order – Mayor Smith
Roll Call
2. Public Participation
Citizens wishing to address the Village Board with respect to any item of business listed on the agenda or any matter not appearing on the agenda are asked to complete a public participation form and submit it to the Village Clerk prior to the meeting. Comments will be limited to three minutes for each item.
3. Motion to pass [Ordinance No. 2558](#), AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 24 OF THE RANTOUL CODE BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 24-146.5
IN CONNETION WITH THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY PROHITIBING SEXUAL
HARASSMENT
4. Motion to Adjourn

Statement Regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Village of Rantoul wishes to ensure that its programs, services, and activities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. All Village Board meetings are wheelchair accessible. Persons with hearing difficulties may obtain auxiliary hearing aids available at each meeting upon request. Persons requiring additional assistance regarding accessibility issues should contact the Village Administrator's office at (217) 893-1661, x. 202. TTY users should call the Illinois Relay Center at 1-800-526-0844.

ORDINANCE NO. 2558

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 24 OF THE RANTOUL CODE BY
ADDING A NEW SECTION 24-146.5 IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ADOPTION OF A POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

**VILLAGE OF RANTOUL
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

Published in pamphlet form this 9th day of January, 2018, by authority of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Rantoul, Champaign County, Illinois.

Village Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2558

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 24 OF THE RANTOUL CODE BY
ADDING A NEW SECTION 24-146.5 IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ADOPTION OF A POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has recently enacted Public Act 100-0554, an Act concerning government, which became effective immediately, dated November 16, 2017;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, each governmental unit shall adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, all prior existing sexual harassment policies of the Village of Rantoul, Champaign County, Illinois (the “**Village**”) shall be superseded by the policy prohibiting sexual harassment adopted by this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, should any section or provision of this Ordinance or the adopted policy prohibiting sexual harassment be declared to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance or adopted policy prohibiting sexual harassment as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RANTOUL, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. Adoption. Article V, entitled “EMPLOYMENT POLICIES”, of Chapter 24, entitled “PERSONNEL”, of the Rantoul Code, as supplemented and amended, be and the same is hereby further supplemented and amended by adding a new Section 24-146.5, to be entitled “Sexual Harassment” to provide as set forth in the title, headings and text thereof as attached hereto and hereby incorporated herein by this reference thereto.

Section 2. Effective Date. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective immediately following its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

Section 3. Conflict. All other ordinances or parts of ordinances which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded.

Section 4. Publication. The Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause this Ordinance to be published in pamphlet form.

This ordinance is hereby passed, the “ayes” and “nays” being called, by the concurrence of a majority of the members of the Corporate Authorities then holding office at a special meeting on the date set forth below.

PASSED this 9th day of January, 2018.

Village Clerk

APPROVED this 9th day of January, 2018.

Village President

Sec. 24-146.5. - Sexual Harassment.

(a) *Policy.* It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person's sex. The courts have determined that sexual harassment is a form of discrimination under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1991. All persons have a right to work in an environment free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unacceptable misconduct which affects individuals of all genders and sexual orientations. It is a policy of the Village to prohibit harassment of any person by any village official, village agent, village employee or village agency or office on the basis of sex or gender. All village officials, village agents, village employees and village agencies or offices are prohibited from sexually harassing any person, regardless of any employment relationship or lack thereof. This policy, supplements and supersedes anything to the contrary in Section 24-146 of this Chapter.

(b) *Definition of sexual harassment.* This policy adopts the definition of sexual harassment as stated in the Illinois Human Rights Act, which currently defines sexual harassment as:

Any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Conduct which may constitute sexual harassment includes:

- Verbal: sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, insults, humor, and jokes about sex, anatomy or gender-specific traits, sexual propositions, threats, repeated requests for dates, or statements about other employees, even outside of their presence, of a sexual nature.
- Non-verbal: suggestive or insulting sounds (whistling), leering, obscene gestures, sexually suggestive bodily gestures, "catcalls", "smacking" or "kissing" noises.
- Visual: posters, signs, pin-ups or slogans of a sexual nature, viewing pornographic material or websites.

- Physical: touching, unwelcome hugging or kissing, pinching, brushing the body, any coerced sexual act or actual assault.
- Textual/Electronic: “sexting” (electronically sending messages with sexual content, including pictures and video), the use of sexually explicit language, harassment, cyber stalking and threats via all forms of electronic communication (e-mail, text/picture/video messages, intranet/on-line postings, blogs, instant messages and social network websites like Facebook and Twitter).

The most severe and overt forms of sexual harassment are easier to determine. On the other end of the spectrum, some sexual harassment is more subtle and depends, to some extent, on individual perception and interpretation. The courts will assess sexual harassment by a standard of what would offend a “reasonable person.”

- (c) *Procedure for reporting an allegation of sexual harassment.* An employee who either observes sexual harassment or believes herself/himself to be the object of sexual harassment should deal with the incident(s) as directly and firmly as possible by clearly communicating her/his position to the offending employee, and her/his immediate supervisor. It is not necessary for sexual harassment to be directed at the person making the report.

Any employee may report conduct which is believed to be sexual harassment, including the following:

- *Electronic/Direct Communication.* If there is sexual harassing behavior in the workplace, the harassed employee should directly and clearly express her/his objection that the conduct is unwelcome and request that the offending behavior stop. The initial message may be verbal. If subsequent messages are needed, they should be put in writing in a note or a memo.
- *Contact with Supervisory Personnel.* At the same time direct communication is undertaken, or in the event the employee feels threatened or intimidated by the situation, the problem must be promptly reported to the immediate supervisor of the person making the report, a department head, a director of human resources, an ethics officer, the city manager or administrator, or the chief executive officer of the village.

The employee experiencing what he or she believes to be sexual harassment must not assume that the employer is aware of the conduct. If there are no witnesses and the victim fails to notify a supervisor or other responsible officer, the village will not be presumed to have knowledge of the harassment.

- *Resolution Outside Village.* The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough and effective procedures for responding to every report and incident so that problems can be identified and remedied by the village. However, all village employees have the right to contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for information regarding filing a formal complaint with those entities. An IDHR complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged incident(s) unless it is a continuing offense. A complaint with the EEOC must be filed within 300 days.

Documentation of any incident may be submitted with any report (what was said or done, the date, the time and the place), including, but not limited to, written records such as letters, notes, memos and telephone messages.

All allegations, including anonymous reports, will be accepted and investigated regardless of how the matter comes to the attention of the village. However, because of the serious implications of sexual harassment charges and the difficulties associated with their investigation and the questions of credibility involved, the claimant's willing cooperation is a vital component of an effective inquiry and an appropriate outcome.

- (d) *Prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations.* No village official, village agency, village employee or village agency or office shall take any retaliatory action against any village employee due to a village employee's:

1. Disclosure or threatened disclosure of any violation of this policy,
2. The provision of information related to or testimony before any public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into any violation of this policy, or
3. Assistance or participation in a proceeding to enforce the provisions of this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, retaliatory action means the reprimand, discharge, suspension, demotion, denial of promotion or transfer, or change in the terms or conditions of employment of any village employee that is taken in retaliation for a village employee's involvement in protected activity pursuant to this policy.

No individual making a report will be retaliated against even if a report made in good faith is not substantiated. In addition, any witness will be protected from retaliation.

Similar to the prohibition against retaliation contained herein, the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/15-10) provides whistleblower protection from retaliatory action such as reprimand, discharge, suspension, demotion, or denial of promotion or transfer that occurs in retaliation for an employee who does any of the following:

1. Discloses or threatens to disclose to a supervisor or to a public body an activity, policy, or practice of any officer, member, State agency, or other State employee that the State employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, rule, or regulation,
2. Provides information to or testifies before any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any violation of a law, rule, or regulation by any officer, member, State agency or other State employee, or
3. Assists or participates in a proceeding to enforce the provisions of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

Pursuant to the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/15(a)), an employer may not retaliate against an employee who discloses information in a court, an administrative hearing, or before a legislative commission or committee, or in any other proceeding, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation. In addition, an employer may not retaliate against an employee for disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation. (740 ILCS 174/15(b)).

According to the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/6-101), it is a civil rights violation for a person, or for two or more people to conspire, to retaliate against a person because he/she has opposed that which he/she reasonably and in good faith believes to be sexual harassment in employment, because he/she has made a charge, filed a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the Illinois Human Rights Act.

An employee who is suddenly transferred to a lower paying job or passed over for a promotion after filing a complaint with IDHR or EEOC, may file a retaliation charge – due within 180 days (IDHR) or 300 days (EEOC) of the alleged retaliation.

- (e) *Consequences of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment.* In addition to any and all other discipline that may be applicable pursuant to village policies, employment agreements, procedures, employee handbooks and/or collective bargaining agreement, any person who violates this policy or the Prohibition on Sexual Harassment contained in 5 ILCS 430/5-65, may be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 per offense, applicable discipline or discharge by the village and any applicable fines and penalties established pursuant to local ordinance, State law or Federal law. Each violation may constitute a separate offense. Any discipline imposed by the village shall be separate and distinct from any penalty imposed by an ethics commission and any fines or penalties imposed by a court of law or a State or Federal agency.

- (f) *Consequences for knowingly making a false report.* A false report is a report of sexual harassment made by an accuser using the sexual harassment report to accomplish some end other than stopping sexual harassment or retaliation for reporting sexual harassment. A false report is not a report made in good faith which cannot be proven. Given the seriousness of the consequences for the accused, a false or frivolous report is a severe offense that can itself result in disciplinary action. Any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of this policy shall be subject to discipline or discharge pursuant to applicable village policies, employment agreements, procedures, employee handbooks and/or collective bargaining agreements.

In addition, any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act to an ethics commission, an inspector general, the State Police, a State's Attorney, the Attorney General, or any other law enforcement official is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. An ethics commission may levy an administrative fine of up to \$5,000 against any person who intentionally makes a false, frivolous or bad faith allegation.