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Question 1

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a planner for a city planning department and you have an old friend who runs a planning consulting firm in the same city. Your friend submits a competitive proposal to work as a consultant for your department to you on Friday and while in your office, asks you to be her guest for dinner at a very fancy restaurant on Saturday evening. What might you do if you actually have no influence about awarding the contract?

Options:

A- You should worry about the appearance of a conflict of interest, even if the invitation for dinner is not intended to enhance your friend's chances of being awarded the contract (Rules of Conduct 5, 8, 19) Because you have no influence about the decision to award the contract, which would include having no professional contact with the decision-makers, you might have dinner with your friend, but it might be safer to postpone the dinner until after the contract has been awarded.

B- You should worry about the appearance of a conflict of interest, even if the invitation for dinner is not intended to enhance your friend's chances of being awarded the contract (Rules of Conduct 6, 8, 18) Because you have no influence about the decision to award the contract, which would include having no professional contact with the decision-makers, you might have dinner with your friend, but it might be safer to postpone the dinner until after the contract has been awarded.

Answer:

A

Question 2

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a planner in a community with a new sign ordinance that prohibits banners from being strung across the road. The ordinance was adopted in response to several unattractive advertising banners that had frequently been strung across local roads and often become entangled with electrical wires. On your way to work one morning, you see that a community group has strung a banner across the main street that advertises an upcoming charity event that will generate thousands of dollars for needy families. You know that the money is greatly needed and that local officials and residents support the event. What might you do in the long run?

Options:

- A-** If you feel that the ordinance is inappropriate for your community, you might decide to begin the process of modifying the language of the ordinance.
- B-** If you feel that the ordinance is inappropriate for your community, you might decide to begin the process of modifying the language of the ordinance. With the approval of your supervisors, you might work with the city attorney to draft new language for the ordinance.
- C-** If you feel that the ordinance is inappropriate for your community, you might decide to begin the process of modifying the language of the ordinance. With the approval of your supervisors, you might work with the city attorney to draft new language for the ordinance and

place the item on the agenda for discussion at the next planning commission meeting

Answer:

C

Question 3

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a planner in a community with a new sign ordinance that prohibits banners from being strung across the road. The ordinance was adopted in response to several unattractive advertising banners that had frequently been strung across local roads and often become entangled with electrical wires. On your way to work one morning, you see that a community group has strung a banner across the main street that advertises an upcoming charity event that will generate thousands of dollars for needy families. You know that the money is greatly needed and that local officials and residents support the event. What might you do in the short term?

Options:

A- Since it is your duty to enforce the ordinance immediately, you might want to think of some alternatives to suggest to the event organizers, such as stringing the sign between two buildings on the same side of the road. However, note that such a solution might have undesirable ramifications, such as a proliferation of signs being strung between buildings. Another way to confront the situation

honestly would be to encourage the community group to apply for a variance. If a variance were granted, then there would be no question about allowing the banner to remain in place.

B- Since it is your duty to enforce the ordinance immediately, you might want to think of some alternatives to suggest to the event organizers, such as stringing the sign between two buildings on the same side of the road. However, note that such a solution might have undesirable ramifications, such as a proliferation of signs being strung between buildings.

Answer:

A

Question 4

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a planner in a community with a new sign ordinance that prohibits banners from being strung across the road. The ordinance was adopted in response to several unattractive advertising banners that had frequently been strung across local roads and often become entangled with electrical wires. On your way to work one morning, you see that a community group has strung a banner across the main street that advertises an upcoming charity event that will generate thousands of dollars for needy families. You know that the money is greatly needed and that local officials and residents support the event. What might be your first reaction?

Options:

A- See the solution below

Whatever your sympathies, you do not have the luxury of ignoring the banner. Ignoring the banner because it is for a cause that you personally support and because you personally argue that it is more important for outcomes to be fair than for processes to be fair.

B- See the solution below

Whatever your sympathies, you do not have the luxury of ignoring the banner. Ignoring the banner because it is for a cause that you personally support and because you personally argue that it is more important for outcomes to be fair than for processes to be fair, is an option because a planner must obey regulations.

C- See the solution below

Whatever your sympathies, you do not have the luxury of ignoring the banner. Ignoring the banner because it is for a cause that you personally support and because you personally argue that it is more important for outcomes to be fair than for processes to be fair, is NOT an option because a planner must obey regulations.

Answer:

C

Question 5

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

In one area of your community the population consists largely of relatively recent immigrants to this country. Population density in the entire community has risen, and the planning department is under pressure from some members of the community to reduce density. In response to this pressure, a regulation to prevent subdividing existing residences into apartments is currently under consideration. You hold a community meeting to discuss the proposed regulation, and it is denounced as being discriminatory to the generally low-income, immigrant population who rent units in subdivided buildings. What might you do?

Options:

A- Clashing values are not uncommon in the planning process, so you might work to gather sufficient facts to distinguish between the perception of the problem and the reality and to fully understand the history of the community. While you are committed to serving the public interest, this can be difficult when you are serving a public with opposing points of view. You might write a report that includes arguments for and against the proposed regulatory changes along with relevant facts that clarify the situation, including a discussion of housing affordability in your community and how the proposed regulation may affect the supply of affordable housing. In your report you might balance concerns about affordable housing with concerns about preserving the integrity of the built environment. You might recommend that additional meetings be scheduled to ensure opportunity for further public input that will be seriously considered in making a final recommendation. Based on these meetings, your report may contain a recommendation that the jurisdiction develop and support regulations that allow higher density development on the grounds that such regulations would expand housing choice, particularly for those of low to moderate income.

B- Clashing values are not uncommon in the planning process, so you might work to gather sufficient facts to distinguish between the perception of the problem and the reality and to fully understand the history of the community. While you are committed to serving the public interest, this can be difficult when you are serving a public with opposing points of view. You might write a report that includes arguments for and against the proposed regulatory changes along with relevant facts that clarify the situation, including a discussion of housing affordability in your community and how the proposed regulation may affect the supply of affordable housing. In your report you might balance concerns about affordable housing with concerns about preserving the integrity of the built environment.

Answer:

A

Question 6

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a newly hired planner involved in the process of preparing a new recreation plan for your community. Your supervisor learns that the City Council is anxious to take action on a recreation plan, and therefore, you are instructed to prepare the plan without scheduling any time for public participation or public comment. Suppose you learn that there is a regulation in place and that this is clearly a violation of the regulation. What might you do?

Options:

A- When you learn that a violation has occurred, bring it to the attention of your director or supervisor. If you learn that the violation has occurred unintentionally, suggest remedies, such as delaying action on the plan until there is adequate time for a participatory process, scheduling a number of participatory events quickly, publicizing the events well, and revising the plan accordingly. It might be a good idea to discuss the situation with a more experienced planner (Ethical Principle 3)

If the violation has occurred you discover that the violation has occurred intentionally, this is a very serious situation because as planners

we shall not accept an assignment from an employer when the service to be performed involves conduct that we know to be illegal (Rule of Conduct 2)

B- When you learn that a violation has occurred, bring it to the attention of your director or supervisor. If you learn that the violation has occurred unintentionally, suggest remedies, such as delaying action on the plan until there is adequate time for a participatory process, scheduling a number of participatory events quickly, publicizing the events well, and revising the plan accordingly. It might be a good idea to discuss the situation with a more experienced planner.

Answer:

A

Question 7

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a newly hired planner involved in the process of preparing a new recreation plan for your community. Your supervisor learns that the City Council is anxious to take action on a recreation plan, and therefore, you are instructed to prepare the plan without scheduling any time for public participation or public comment. Suppose you learn that there is no regulation in place regarding public participation. What might you do?

Options:

A- You might mention lack of public participation in the process in your report or introduction to the plan. Suppose you learn that there was a lengthy and involved process of public participation in developing an open space plan less than a year ago and that information gathered in that process will be used to create the recreation plan. You might mention the lack of public participation in the process in your report but might also include information about the process that occurred less than a year ago and explain how that process did (or did not) influence this decision.

B- You might mention lack of public participation in the process in your report or introduction to the plan. Suppose you learn that there was a lengthy and involved process of public participation in developing an open space plan less than a year ago and that information gathered in that process will be used to create the recreation plan.

Answer:

A

Question 8

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a newly hired planner involved in the process of preparing a new recreation plan for your community. Your supervisor learns that the City Council is anxious to take action on a recreation plan, and therefore, you are instructed to prepare the plan without

scheduling any time for public participation or public comment. What might you do first?

Options:

A- The first step is to be sure you understand the situation completely, and, most importantly, you must know if public participation required by law. You know that as a planner, your responsibility is to provide full, clear and accurate information on planning issues to citizens and governmental decision-makers and to strive to give citizens the opportunity for meaningful impact on the development of plans (Ethical Principle 1)

B- The first step is to be sure you understand the situation completely, and, most importantly, you must know if public participation required by law. You know that as a planner, your responsibility is to provide full.

Answer:

A

Question 9

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a planner in a city that has recently opened a new shelter for homeless people. The shelter opens each evening during the winter and provides a place for people to sleep during the night in dormitory-style rooms with cots. Some community members would like the shelter closed because they feel that the large number of people who congregate on the sidewalks near the shelter as they wait for it to open pose a threat to public safety. Your planning director decides to address these concerns by classifying the shelter as a hotel. The planning director knows that the zoning ordinance specifies that a hotel must provide private sleeping quarters, which the shelter does not. By classifying the shelter as a hotel, the planning director is taking steps to close the shelter based on the ground that it is in violation of the zoning ordinance. Suppose you have reviewed the situation carefully and believe that the director made an unethical decision. What might you do?

Options:

A- See the solution below

If the director is a member of the AICP, then you might discuss the situation with the AICP Ethics Officer (Procedures 2 and 3) You may decide to file a charge of unethical conduct with the AICP ethics Officer (Procedure 5).

B- See the solution below

If the director is a member of the AICP, then you might discuss the situation with the AICP Ethics Officer (Procedures 2 and 3) You may decide to file a charge of unethical conduct with the AICP ethics Officer (Procedure 5). Beware that this course of action will probably result in a tense work environment and should only be followed after careful consideration.

Answer:

B

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