

OPINION SUMMARY

OPINION NO:

2017-1

DATE:

2/23/2017

CHARTER SECTIONS INTERPRETED:

2604(b)(2), 2604(b)(3),
2604(b)(4), 2604(b)(14)

BOARD RULES INTERPRETED:

1-13(a), 1-13(b)

SUBJECTS:

Political Activities
Social Media

OTHER OPINIONS CITED:

2003-6, 2009-5, 2012-5, 2013-1,
2013-2

SUMMARY: Public servants may not use official City social media accounts for political purposes, regardless of whether they do so on City time or whether they use City resources. Public servants may not, on City time or using City resources, operate social media accounts registered and operated on behalf of a campaign for elective office. Subordinate public servants may not manage, or create content for, their superior's personal social media accounts. Public servants who reference their City positions on personal social media accounts may not imply that they are speaking on behalf of the City or are invoking the authority of their City positions.