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Arapahoe County releases ethics investigation *Committee finds ethical violation by Commissioner Frank Weddig*

LITTLETON --- A report by the Arapahoe County Ethics Committee released today said it found Commissioner Frank Weddig violated the County's Ethics Policy by communicating with a City of Centennial staff member concerning confidential issues that were the subject of contract negotiations between the County and the City.

Weddig agreed Tuesday to step down as chair of the Board of County Commissioners for the remainder of 2007. Commissioner Susan Beckman, the current Chair Pro Tem, will serve as Chair for the remainder of the year. A new chair, chair pro tem and finance officer will be selected in January.

The five-member Ethics Committee, which consists of citizens appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, was asked to look into whether Weddig committed an ethical violation by communicating with Centennial about the Commissioners' position regarding the contract negotiations that were ongoing with the city.

According to their findings, the Ethics Committee found under state statutes and County rules adopted on April 11, 2000 that Weddig violated his duty of confidentiality by initiating communications with Centennial staff.

The County's Ethics Policy states: "All County elected officials, employees and board, commission or committee appointees shall hold in confidence all matters, written or verbal, of a privileged and confidential nature and not reveal any information which is by law confidential. None of these persons shall use any confidential information for making a private profit or gaining personal benefit or benefit for others. All County elected officials, employees and board, commission or committee appointees shall abide by the Colorado Standards of Conduct found at C.R.S. 24-18-101 et seq. and 201 et seq."

A copy of the Ethics Report is available for review on the County's web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

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