

## **Township of Mullica General Complaint Procedure:**

Any individual who observes alleged wrongdoing on the part of officials, employees, or volunteers associated with the Township of Mullica may report such action using this procedure. This includes any action the individual believes to constitute harassment, sexual harassment, or any other wrongdoing. Employees of the township shall follow the Employee Complaint Procedure. All other individuals including volunteers and members of the public may report the alleged wrongdoing to the head of the applicable department or volunteer organization, or, if they prefer, or do not think that the matter can be discussed with the head of the applicable department or organization, they should contact the Township Clerk, the Chief Financial Officer or the Township Solicitor.

Reporting of such incidents is encouraged both when an individual feels that he or she is subject to such incidents, or observes such incidents in reference to other individuals. The report or complaint should be in writing, but individuals may make a verbal complaint at their discretion. If an individual has any questions about what constitutes harassment, sexual harassment, or any other workplace wrongdoing, they may ask their supervisor or one of the individuals listed above. All reports of harassment, sexual harassment, or other wrongdoing will be promptly investigated by a person who is not alleged to be involved in the alleged harassment or wrongdoing.

No individual will be penalized in any way for reporting a complaint. There will be no discrimination or retaliation against any individual who files a good-faith harassment complaint, even if the investigation produces insufficient evidence to support the complaint, and even if the charges cannot be proven. There will be no discrimination or retaliation against any other individual who participates in the investigation of a complaint.

If the investigation substantiates the complaint, appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action will be swiftly pursued. Disciplinary action up to and including discharge will also be taken against individuals who make false or frivolous accusations, such as those made maliciously or recklessly. Actions taken internally to investigate and resolve harassment complaints will be conducted confidentially to the extent practicable and appropriate in order to protect the privacy of persons involved. Any investigation may include interviews with the parties involved in the incident, and if necessary, with individuals who may have observed the incident or conduct or who have other relevant knowledge. The complaining individual will be notified of a decision at the conclusion of the investigation within a reasonable time from the date of the report an incident.