

DIRECTIVE NO	ITS-003
TITLE	EMAIL USAGE POLICY
ISSUE DATE	NOVEMBER 14 <sup>TH</sup> , 2013
APPROVED BY	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE (CFO, COO, ITS DIRECTOR, AUDITOR GENERAL)
DISTRIBUTION	ALL EMPLOYEES

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## **1. STATEMENT OF POLICY**

All City of Detroit email users will adhere to the guidelines described in the Policy Provisions section of this policy. This policy applies to any email message that is created or received by users of the City of Detroit electronic mail (email) service. Users of the City of Detroit email are employees or business partners (i.e. contractors or vendors) who have been issued a City of Detroit email address.

## **2. PURPOSE**

This policy is intended for all City of Detroit email users. City of Detroit's ITS Department is committed to protecting the integrity, confidentiality and availability of City's data and information assets. This policy describes the responsibilities of the email users' for the proper use of City email service and potential consequences for failing to abide by these rules. This policy clarifies and ensures users are aware of what the City deems to be acceptable and unacceptable use of email. It informs users that by using the City of Detroit email service the user agrees to comply with this policy and waives any right of privacy in any email they create, send, or receive using the City of Detroit email, or store in the City of Detroit email system. It places users on notice that the City of Detroit can and may monitor use of email without prior notification, and that the City of Detroit reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including termination or legal action for failing to adhere to this policy.

## **3. POLICY PROVISIONS**

### **GENERAL**

1. The following activities are prohibited by policy:
  - Sending email that is intimidating or harassing.
  - Using email for conducting personal business
  - Using email for purposes of political lobbying or campaigning
  - Violating copyright laws by inappropriately distributing protected works

- Posing as anyone other than oneself when sending email, except when authorized to send messages for another when serving in an administrative support role
  - The use of unauthorized e-mail software
2. The following activities are prohibited because they impede the functioning of network communications and the efficient operations of electronic mail systems:
    - Sending or forwarding chain letters
    - Sending unsolicited messages to large groups except as required to conduct agency business
    - Sending excessively large messages
  3. All user activity on City of Detroit Information Technology System assets is subject to logging and review.
  4. Electronic mail users must not give the impression that they are representing, giving opinions, or otherwise making statements on behalf of City of Detroit or any unit of the City of Detroit unless appropriately authorized (explicitly or implicitly) to do so. Where appropriate, an explicit disclaimer will be included unless it is clear from the context that the author is not representing the City of Detroit. An example of a simple disclaimer is: "the opinions expressed are my own, and not necessarily those of my employer."
  5. Individuals must not send, forward or receive confidential or sensitive City of Detroit data and information through non-City of Detroit email accounts. Examples of non-City of Detroit email accounts include, but are not limited to, Hotmail, Comcast, Yahoo mail, Gmail, AOL mail, and email provided by other Internet Service Providers (ISP).
  6. Individuals must not send, forward, receive or store confidential or sensitive City of Detroit information and data utilizing non-City of Detroit accredited mobile devices. Examples of mobile devices include, but are not limited to, Personal Data Assistants, two-way pagers and cellular telephones.
  7. Email storage size shall not exceed 2 gigabytes of data. When such limit is reached individual users are informed of it 3 number of times and asked to archive the emails and make room. If archival is not done within 3 number of warnings user's email traffic is blocked and will be forced to archive the emails and make room. For questions, contact the ITS helpdesk at 313-628-HELP
  8. Encryption- City of Detroit reserves the right to use an encryption tool for all external email transmission
  9. City of Detroit reserves right to monitor and report all the email activity of all employees

10. City of Detroit conduct Email investigation as legally required (currently ITS uses Nexic)

#### **PROHIBITED**

11. Any purpose that violates a federal or City government law, code or policy, standard or procedure
12. The advertising or other promotion of any private business enterprise or activity
13. Transmission or solicitation of information or statements that contain profane language, pander to bigotry, sexism, or other forms of prohibited discrimination, or can in any way be construed as intending to harass or threaten another individual, sexually or otherwise
14. Any activity with religious or political purposes outside the scope of the user's assigned and authorized governmental duties
15. Any unauthorized purchase
16. Sending email under names or addresses other than the employee's own officially designated City government email address
17. Adding, removing, or modifying identifying network header information ("spoofing") in an effort to deceive or mislead recipients
18. Opening any "executable" email attachments (e.g., .exe, .bat, .scr, .vbs) from any source
19. Sending or forwarding "chain" letters, i.e., those that ask the receiver to forward the message to multiple recipients
20. Sending any attachment files larger than 10 megabytes (MB)
21. Sharing organized City email lists with any person outside the City, except as required by the Freedom of Information Act, subpoena, or other compulsory process
22. Setting email correspondence to forward automatically to an outside (non-City) address
23. "Broadcast" emails that do not meet the "broadcast" email requirements above
24. Disruption, obstruction, or burden of network resources
25. The intentional or negligent introduction of computer viruses (or other malicious code) into any City of Detroit systems
26. Transmission of sensitive (e.g., confidential) data and information unless protected by an approved encryption mode. This type of information includes:
  - PII - Personally Identifiable Information
  - PHI – Protected Health Information

- FTI – Federal Tax Information

#### **INSTANT MESSAGING**

27. Employees, vendors or business partners are prohibited from downloading and using personal, consumer-grade IM (Instant Messaging) software (e.g., AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo!, or MSN) to transmit messages via the public Internet
28. All IM communications, data and information transmitted, received, or archived in the city's IM system belong to the company
29. Employees have no reasonable expectation of privacy when using the city's IM system. The city reserves the right to monitor, access, and disclose all employee IM communications
30. The IM system is intended for business use only. Employees, vendors or business partners are prohibited from wasting computer resources, colleagues time, or their own time sending personal instant messages or engaging in unnecessary chat related to business
31. Treat IM messages as business records that may be retained and used as evidence in litigation, audits, and investigations
32. Always use professional and appropriate language in all instant messages. Employees are prohibited from sending abusive, harassing, threatening, menacing, discriminatory, pornographic, disrespectful, or otherwise offensive instant messages
33. Employees are prohibited from sending jokes, rumors, gossip, or unsubstantiated opinions via IM. These communications, which often contain objectionable material, are easily misconstrued when communicated electronically
34. Employees may not use IM to transmit confidential, proprietary, personal, or potentially embarrassing data and information about the company, employees, clients, business associates, or other third parties
35. Employees may not share confidential, proprietary, or potentially embarrassing business-related or personal IM with the media, prospective employers, or other third parties.

#### **4. POLICY NON-COMPLIANCE**

Non-Compliance of this policy may result in any or all of the following:

1. Violators may be prosecuted under the laws applicable in the U.S.
2. Violation of City of Detroit's code of conduct.
3. Potential disciplinary actions.
4. Termination of all network access and IT services by the ITS Department.

## 5. EXCEPTIONS

The ITS Steering Committee and City of Detroit Corporation Counsel must approve any exceptions to this policy.

## 6. ADDITIONAL EMAIL SECURITY INFORMATION

### MALICIOUS CODE WARNING

Attachments to e-mails are a common method of distribution of malicious code. E-mail is inherently insecure due to its use of SMTP, a plain text-forwarding protocol, and its lack of strong authentication of message senders. The source of an e-mail address can be easily spoofed or falsified as someone that you trust. Often, this alone is enough to trick a recipient into opening an attachment. If you receive an attachment and need to determine if it is legitimate, you still need to verify it before opening it. Here are steps you can use to help you decide what to do with every email message with an attachment that you receive. You should only read a message that passes all of these tests.

The KNOW test

Is the email from someone that you know?

The RECEIVED test

Have you received email from this sender before?

The EXPECT test

Were you expecting email with an attachment from this sender?

The SENSE test

Does email from the sender with the contents as described in the Subject line and the name of the attachment(s) make sense?

The VIRUS test

Does this email contain a virus?

You should apply these five tests – KRESV – to every piece of email with an attachment that you receive. If any test fails, toss that email. If they all pass, then you still need to exercise care and watch for unexpected results as you read it.

Now, given the KRESV tests, imagine that you want to send email with an attachment to someone with whom you've never corresponded – what should you do? Here's a set of steps to follow to begin an email dialogue with someone.

Since the recipient doesn't already KNOW you, you need to send them an introductory email. It must not contain an attachment. Basically, you're introducing

yourself and asking their permission to send email with an attachment that they may otherwise be suspicious of. Tell them who you are, what you'd like to do, and ask for permission to continue.

This introductory email qualifies as the mail **RECEIVED** from you.

Hopefully, they'll respond; and if they do, honor their wishes. If they choose not to receive email with an attachment from you, don't send one. If you never hear from them, try your introductory email one more time.

If they accept your offer to receive email with an attachment, send it off. They will **KNOW** you and will have **RECEIVED** email from you before. They will also **EXPECT** this email with an attachment, so you've satisfied the first three requirements of the **KRESV** tests.

Whatever you send should make **SENSE** to them. Don't use a provocative Subject line or any other social engineering practice to encourage them to read your email.

Check the attachments for **VIRUS**. This is again based on having virus-checking programs,

The **KRESV** tests help you focus on the most important issues when sending and receiving email with attachments. Use it every time you send email, but be aware that there is no full proof scheme for working with email, or security in general. You still need to exercise care. While an anti-virus program alerts you to many viruses that may find their way to your computer, there will always be a lag between when a virus is discovered and when anti-virus program vendors provide the new virus signature. This means that you shouldn't rely entirely on your anti-virus programs. You must continue to exercise care when reading email.

Virus warning: Email containing warnings about virus or malware. The overwhelming majority of these emails turn out to be a hoax and contain bogus information usually intent only on frightening or misleading users. Action to take is contact your manager or the City of Detroit Help Desk and assistance will be supplied