

# OFFICE OF JAMES R. FREED

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**November 26, 2018**

Martha Perego  
ICMA  
777 North Capital Street, NE  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002-4201

Dear Martha Perego:

I write to you as a proud member of the ICMA for more than 10 years. Our Association is comprised of literally thousands of dedicated public executives from around the country and world. Membership in our Association is not only a commitment to continuous professional development and growth, but also a statement of values comprised of our Code of Ethics.

It is our commitment to the values of our Code of Ethics that I write to you today.

I have become very alarmed and concerned about your social media activity, specifically, your Twitter activity involving the account "@ICMAEthics". The activity on this account has become increasingly partisan, often times "liking" hyper-partisan attacks on elected officials from the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate and the President of the United States.

Our Code of Ethics, notably Tenant Seven, "Refrain from all political activities which undermine public confidence in professional administrators," is very clear that this activity is prohibited.

I recognize that as Administrative Staff for the ICMA you may not be professionally bound by our Association's code of ethics, and I also recognize your First Amendment Rights to voice your own opinions on matters of politics and policy. However, the Twitter handle you have chosen "@ICMAEthics" leads the public to believe that this type of social media activity and behavior represents the members of our Association. It most certainly does not.

I am requesting that either you delete and "Unlike" any political activity and statements that may conflict with our Code of Ethics, or simply change your Twitter handle to something that does not appear to represent ICMA.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Freed', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

James R. Freed

ICMA Member #514601