

# ETHICS CENTRAL

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## 'Tis the Season

As the holiday season ramps up, it is important to revisit the gift policy outlined in the Ethics Rules of Procedure as well as the prohibitions in the Cherokee Code.

The season of goodwill brings with it the giving and receiving of greeting cards and presents. The Ethics Rules of Procedure permits Tribal officials to exchange greeting cards without the need for official reporting. Similarly, gifts given to or received from immediate family members typically are also exempt from reporting requirements.

When the gift report deadline approaches, you might find yourself with the question "Was it a gift?". In simple terms, if it is something of economic value, for which the value was not paid for, the item was not available to the public with the same terms, and a gift exception does not apply, it is a gift. Any gift you give or receive that has not been exempted must be reported.

You must also keep in mind the source of the gift and the reason or circumstances of why it was given or received. It is essential for Tribal Officials to adhere to the gift policy and the prohibitions in the Cherokee Code. Any gifts inadvertently received that are not allowed should be promptly returned or appropriately disposed of.

As always, if there are any questions or uncertainties regarding gifts, Tribal Officials are encouraged to refer to the Ethics Rules of Procedure. Ethics Staff are also available to answer any questions.

**ELEVATE YOUR ETHICS**

# ETHICS IN THE NEWS



## ETHICS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST LA COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE STIR RESIDENTS IN VALLEY

The day after Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee was accused this week of violating city ethics laws for not reporting gifts he allegedly got from a developer while he was a city employee, his city council colleagues were largely silent while some residents in his council district said they were not surprised by the accusations.

The Los Angeles Ethics Commission announced on Monday, Oct. 2, that there was “probable cause” to believe that Lee, in 2016 and 2017 as chief of staff to then-City Councilmember Mitchell Englander, accepted gifts far in excess of the gift limit for city officials, failed to report the gifts, misused his position, and aided and abetted Englander’s misuse of his own position.

The probable cause finding by Ethics Commission staff doesn’t necessarily mean that Lee violated the law. That will be determined at a future hearing of the Ethics Commission board. Lee denies wrongdoing and has pledged to “vigorously fight these baseless accusations.”

Los Angeles Daily News

## Have Yourself an Ethical Christmas

E	T	H	I	C	S	F	V	R	C	V	N	T	G	B
S	D	D	F	G	F	U	C	V	E	H	X	V	D	S
J	C	V	B	F	L	H	B	X	G	P	H	B	K	G
V	B	S	D	Y	M	J	N	L	F	J	O	A	M	H
F	N	H	V	O	N	K	M	J	D	K	L	R	N	D
T	H	I	N	P	E	G	P	H	S	L	I	S	T	E
D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	G	A	O	D	F	B	I
F	T	F	K	F	B	L	O	F	P	P	A	G	W	N
N	Q	Z	T	C	V	G	I	D	O	I	Y	H	E	T
L	F	B	K	B	X	F	U	S	I	Y	C	J	R	E
K	H	X	N	L	Z	D	Y	A	U	T	B	K	T	G
O	J	E	T	H	I	C	S	O	F	F	I	C	E	R
Q	P	K	Z	Y	J	S	T	Q	Y	R	N	L	Y	I
P	Z	I	D	H	M	A	R	W	T	E	M	P	U	T
F	X	K	Q	E	B	Q	E	E	R	W	Q	O	I	Y

ETHICS  
ETHICS OFFICER  
INTEGRITY

GIFT  
DONATION

HOLIDAY  
REPORT

*Happy Holidays!*

ELEVATE YOUR ETHICS

# REMINDERS

Due January 16  
Q1 Gift Report



*"He who has not  
Christmas in his  
heart will never  
find it under a  
tree."*

**-Roy L. Smith**

## ETHICS QUESTIONS



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