

Statement from the NC City and County Management Association approved by the Executive Committee on 2/2/18

During the past few months, many news stories have been written and aired in western North Carolina regarding the alleged misconduct of Wanda Greene, former Buncombe County Manager.

As an association of professional managers, it is not our normal practice to comment on the affairs of another local government. It is also not our normal practice to comment while an independent investigation is still ongoing. Ms. Greene is, after all, entitled to due process and the public is entitled to the complete facts.

We, the members of the North Carolina City and County Management Association, believe the extreme nature of the allegations against Ms. Greene so widely reported by the media undermine the public's confidence in the professionals who manage local governments across the state. For that reason, we feel compelled to offer our perspective. First and foremost, a county manager has a legal and ethical obligation to protect public resources. Using county funds for personal use, hiring relatives, and accepting outlandish compensation is just wrong. Ms. Greene was not a member of the North Carolina City/County Management Association.

The investigation will determine whether this conduct is illegal. We can assure you now that the conduct as reported is unethical.

Local government managers, many of whom are members of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), subscribe to a Code of Ethics. We also have an obligation to monitor the conduct of our fellow ICMA members. We believe that Ms. Greene's actions, if proven to be true, constitute a violation of Tenets 2, 3, 11 and 12 of our code of ethics, which state:

*Tenet 2. Affirm the dignity and worth of the services rendered by government and maintain a constructive, creative, and practical attitude toward local government affairs and a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.*

*Tenet 3. Demonstrate by word and action the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in all public, professional, and personal relationships in order that the member may merit the trust and respect of the elected and appointed officials, employees, and the public.*

*Tenet 11. Handle all matters of personnel on the basis of merit so that fairness and impartiality govern a member's decisions, pertaining to appointments, pay adjustments, promotions, and discipline.*

*Tenet 12. Public office is a public trust. A member shall not leverage his or her position for personal gain or benefit.*

We want to assure the public that the conduct described in the media is completely outside of normally accepted behavior and is without precedent in our profession. Nothing could justify these actions. If the allegations against Ms. Greene are true, we condemn her behavior in the strongest way possible.