



# I copied this: Plagiarism & Planning Ethics

Planning Webcast Series

# Meet your panelists

- Staron Faucher, AICP, Supervising Transportation Planner at WSP in Dallas, TX
- Bonnie J. Johnson, PhD, FAICP, Program Director, Professor, Urban Planning, School of Public Affairs & Administration, University of Kansas
- Kim Mickelson, JD, AICP, Senior Assistant City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney, Houston, TX



## Ethics Session Disclaimer – James Peters, FAICP Ethics Officer

PLEASE NOTE: This session has been created to provide general education regarding the AICP Code of Ethics. Though examples, sample problems, and question and answer sessions are an important part of illustrating application of the code's provisions, all certified planners should be aware that only the Ethics Officer is authorized to give informal advice on the propriety of a planner's proposed conduct and only the Ethics Committee can give a formal opinion (AICP Code of Ethics, Section C1,2). If you have a specific question regarding a situation arising in your practice, you are encouraged to seek the opinion of the Ethics Officer.

Photo: APA Member Directory





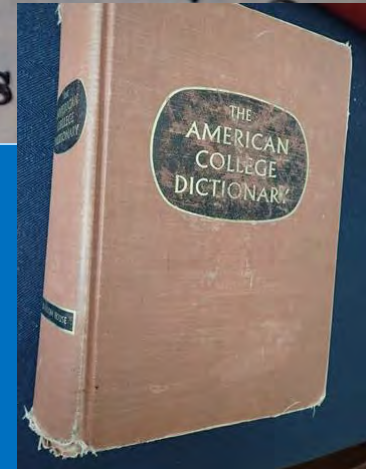
the chord or the tonic is preceded by that of the subdominant.

**pla·gi·a·rism** (plā'jĭə'rĭz'əm, plā'jə-), *n.* 1. copying or imitating the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author and passing off the same as one's original work. 2. something appropriated and put forth in this manner. —**pla'gi·a·rist**, *n.* —**pla'gi·a·ris'tic**, *adj.*

**pla·gi·a·rize** (plā'jĭə'rĭz', plā'jə-), *v.*, -rized, -rizing. —*v.t.* 1. to appropriate by plagiarism. 2. to appropriate ideas, passages, etc., from by plagiarism. to commit plagiarism. Also, *Brit.*, **pla'gi·a·ris**

What will we discuss in this session?

- What did we learn about plagiarism in school?
- What does the AICP Code say?
- **What do we planners do as a matter of “practice”?**
- **What is your comfort level with “borrowing”? Let's calibrate with some scenarios & polling.**
- **Lastly, public participation and the “free”-labor of the public, particularly marginalized groups.**





# Avoiding Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism – **Just don't do it.**

# Examples of Plagiarism

- **Using another's work without citing the source & without putting it in quotes.**
- Copying-and-pasting from the Internet without citing the source (particularly without citing the author).
- Just not paraphrasing properly. If it is paraphrased, no need for putting it in quotes but still need to cite source.



# There's such a thing as “common knowledge” right?

- Information about famous people
- Current events
- Known without looking it up

APA

AICP

What does the AICP Code say?

Our Responsibility



**Let's practice a polling question.**

Which section(s) of the AICP Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct is/are enforceable?

- Section A: Principles to Which We Aspire
- Section B: Our Rules of Conduct
- Section C: Advisory Opinions
- Section D: Adjudication of Complaints of Misconduct
- Section E: Discipline of Members
- Sections: A & B
- Sections: C & E

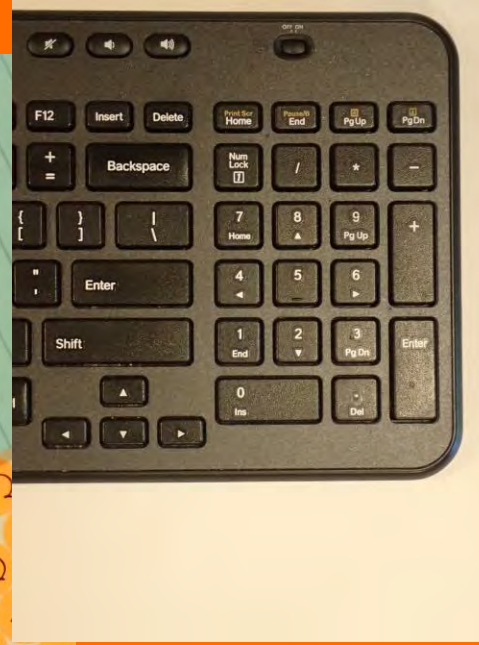
# Section A: Principles to Which We Aspire

- 1. Our Overall Responsibility to the Public
  - a. We shall always be conscious of the rights of others.
  - b. We shall have special concern for the long-range consequences of present actions.
  - d. We shall provide timely, adequate, clear, and accurate information on planning issues to all affected persons and to governmental decision makers.
- 3. Our Responsibility to Our Profession and Colleagues
  - a. We shall protect and enhance the integrity of our profession.
  - c. We shall describe and comment on the work and views of other professionals in a fair and professional manner.
  - d. We shall share the results of experience and research that contribute to the body of planning knowledge.
  - e. We shall examine the applicability of planning theories, methods, research and practice and standards to the facts and analysis of each particular situation and shall not accept the applicability of a customary solution without first establishing its appropriateness to the situation.
  - j. We shall systematically and critically analyze ethical issues in the practice of planning.

# Section B: Our Rules of Conduct

- 1. We shall not deliberately or with reckless indifference fail to provide adequate, timely, clear and accurate information on planning issues.
- 2. We shall not accept an assignment from a client or employer when the services to be performed involve conduct that we know to be illegal or in violation of these rules.
- 10. We shall neither deliberately, nor with reckless indifference, misrepresent the qualifications, views and findings of other professionals.
- 11. We shall not solicit prospective clients or employment through use of false or misleading claims, harassment, or duress.
- 12. We shall not misstate our education, experience, training, or any other facts which are relevant to our professional qualifications.
- 15. We shall not accept work beyond our professional competence unless the client or employer understands and agrees that such work will be performed by another professional competent to perform the work and acceptable to the client or employer.
- 16. We shall not accept work for a fee, or pro bono, that we know cannot be performed with the promptness required by the prospective client, or that is required by the circumstances of the assignment.
- 17. We shall not use the product of others' efforts to seek professional recognition or acclaim intended for producers of original work.
- 25. We shall neither deliberately, nor with reckless indifference, commit any wrongful act, whether or not specified in the Rules of Conduct, that reflects adversely on our professional fitness.





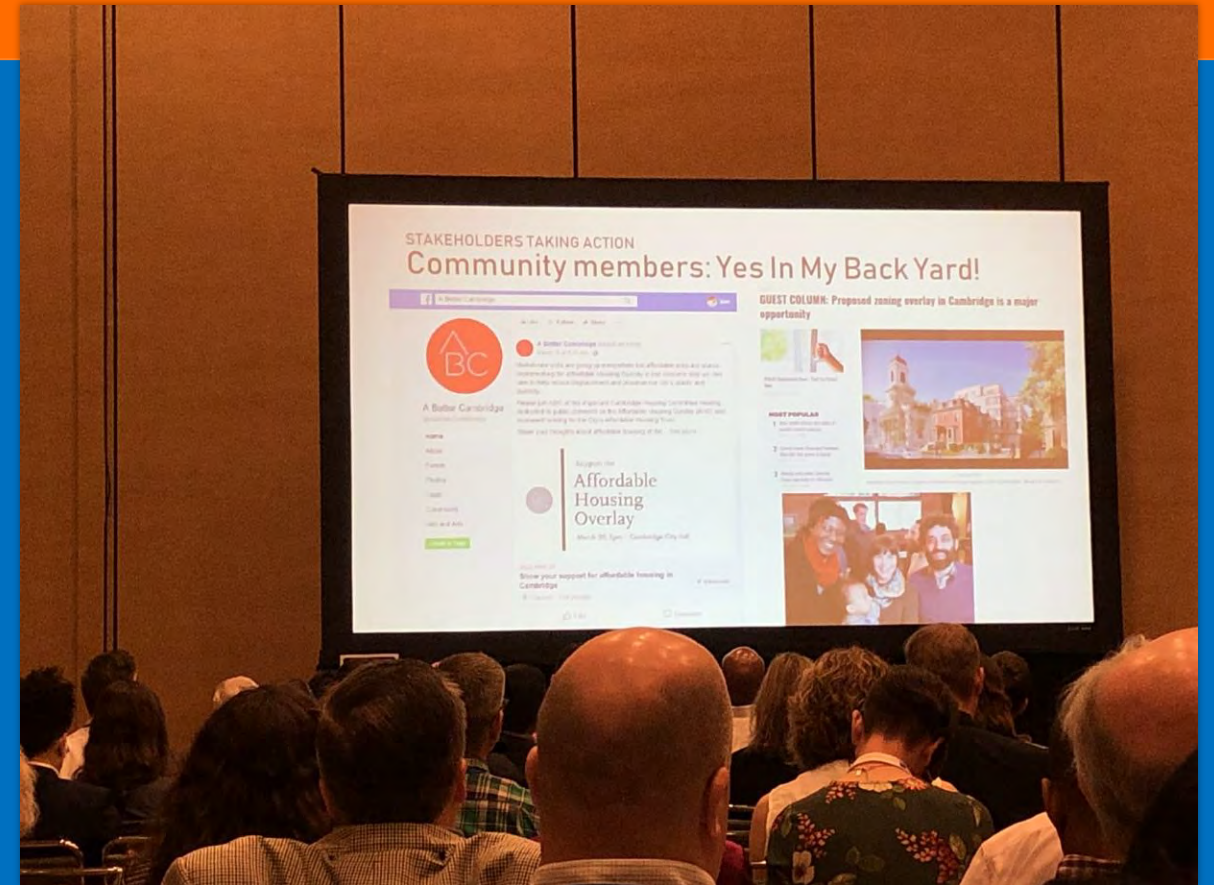
# Planning practice

What do we do day-to-day?

# Plagiarism May be an Unspoken Part of Planning Culture

Our responsibility to our profession and colleagues

- Contributing to the growth of planning knowledge (Aspirational Principal D).
- Time and resources for the professional development of students and new planners (Aspirational Principal F)



# Planners often learn on the job.





# Balancing budget constraints with client and/or public expectations

- Projects with robust scopes, short schedules, and limited budgets.
- Planners may take short cuts to complete projects on-time and within budget.
  - Using “Boiler-Plate” Material
  - Using less-experienced planners with “go-bys”



# Doing the work -

- In the public domain.
- On tight time schedules.
- With limited resources.
- Sharing our knowledge.
- On teams.
- Delegating tasks.
- Using best practices.
- Setting precedents.

We believe that all these definitions provide a good starting point for those who need to draft zoning definitions. Ideally, users will edit the definitions they find here to make them better—eliminating regulations from the definitions and considering what is most appropriate for local circumstances. In other words, use them only as a reference to create something new and suitable; do not just copy these definitions (without thought). In fact, as we always advise in PAS Reports, consult your state enabling legislation (which may, in fact, have





# What is your comfort level?

Is there a difference between private & public sector planners?

Does your mind change as we go along?

## Scenario #1

Planner, AICP for City of A goes looking for a new way of saying what a Comprehensive Plan is. They find just the right words in a neighboring **city's plan. They copy** and paste it into their **city's plan draft.**

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #2

A Consultant, AICP is hired by City of A to update their Sign Code. City A has had to deal with some contentious issues over temporary signs lately. The Consultant finds just the right words in a **neighboring city's Sign Code**. They copy and **paste it into their client's** Sign Code draft.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?



### Scenario #3

Planner, AICP finds just the right drawing **illustrating “medium density residential”**. They copy and paste it into the plan they are drafting and put in a caption with where they got the illustration.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #4

A Planner, AICP finds just the right drawing **illustrating “medium density residential”**. They copy it but change the colors and the line weights.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #5

A Planner, AICP finds just the right drawing **illustrating “medium density residential”**. They copy and paste it into the plan they are drafting.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- 1 being “**Completely Uncomfortable**”
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- 5 being “**Completely Comfortable**”
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #6

A Consultant, AICP is hired by City of A to write a traffic calming policy guide for the community. They find a good one in a neighboring city. They copy and paste from it heavily but change the data and background information. They provide no attribution information and do not tell the Planning Commission that they have done this.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?



## Scenario #7

A Consultant, AICP is hired by City of A to write a traffic calming policy guide for the community. They find a good one in a neighboring city. They copy and paste from it heavily but change the data and background information. They provide attribution information and tell the Planning Commission what they have done.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #8

A Consultant, AICP is hired by City of A to write a Growth Management Plan, they assign it to their newly hired planner right out of school (non-AICP nor AICP Candidate) who never even had a class in growth management. The new planner takes some shortcuts copying and pasting from other works because they do not want to show their lack of knowledge.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #9

A Consultant gives part of a big project to an out-of-work planner with a short deadline. They never credit that planner for their work.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?

## Scenario #10

Consultant, FAICP was the owner of a small planning firm that was acquired by BIG, a multidisciplinary firm three years ago. They were let go soon after. Last month they sat through a presentation given by the planner who replaced them at BIG that showcased some concepts they developed at their firm prior to its purchase. They were not listed as a source in the presentation.

Keeping in mind the AICP Code – On a 1 to 5 scale with

- **1 being “Completely Uncomfortable”**
- 3 somewhere in the middle
- **5 being “Completely Comfortable”**
- How comfortable are you with this?





# What about the unpaid labor of the public?

Our Code urges public engagement – particularly with disadvantaged groups –  
What about their time and energy?

# Q&A - Contacts

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