



November 17, 2017 – MGRC Member Update

MGRC members –

This week, the Minnesota Governmental Relations Council (MGRC) Board of Directors held its regularly-scheduled monthly meeting. During this meeting, our board members discussed recent allegations of misconduct at the Capitol.

MGRC's mission is to serve "government relations professionals by providing advocacy ... and an enhanced working experience inside and outside the Capitol because we believe in the importance of ethical representation in the public policy process." As such, the MGRC Board feels a responsibility to you as members to engage in discussions about workplace safety and discriminatory or inappropriate behavior among legislators, staff, and lobbyists.

In light of the recent allegations involving sexual harassment, the MGRC Board has appointed a Workplace Safety Committee and made the request of legislative leaders that this committee be included in any discussions that may affect how government relations professionals interact with legislators, state agencies, and staff. This committee will also seek a better understanding of what current policies exist to address sexual harassment claims and inappropriate behavior in the workplace for lobbyists, legislators, and staff.

Now is also an appropriate time to remind our members and others that all members of MGRC agree to abide by ethical standards of contact. Adherence to these standards is not only required for membership, but also serves to assure public confidence in the integrity and services of government relations professionals. The MGRC Code of Ethics can be found [here](#) and is readily available on our website.

We want MGRC to be involved in meaningful discussions so that we can help to improve and promote policies that foster a healthy, safe workplace for all lobbyists, legislators, and staff.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this approach, please feel free to reach out to an MGRC Board member or submit comments at [info@MnGRC.org](mailto:info@MnGRC.org).

Sincerely,

MGRC Board of Directors

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If you are a member of the media and have questions, please contact Elizabeth Emerson at 651-357-2225.