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February 23, 2022

The trademarked term "REALTOR®" embodies professionalism, integrity, honor, and care. It represents one's membership in the local, state and National Association of REALTORS® and carries with it a privilege and responsibility to honor and adhere to a REALTOR® Code of Ethics.

Compliance with the Code of Ethics is an obligation which sets REALTORS® apart from other real estate licensees who are not members of the Association.

In November 2020, the National Association of REALTORS® amended the Code of Ethics, Article 10, Standard of Practice 10-5 to apply to the actions, statements, and comments of a REALTOR® outside of the real estate transaction.

Standard of Practice 10-5 states that, "**REALTORS® must not use harassing speech, hate speech, epithets, or slurs based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.**"

If a member is thought to be in violation of Article 10 or any other article of the Code, there is a system in place which affords the member due process. Any REALTOR® or non-member may file an ethics complaint. All complaints are reviewed and processed in accordance with a system of written policies and procedures.

All ethic complaint proceedings are confidential and those serving on the Grievance Committee, Professional Standards Committee, and the Board of Directors are bound by the duties of care and confidentiality.

In my role as President of the Association, I also serve as the spokesperson of the Outer Banks Association of REALTORS®. Therefore, please be aware that I am not at liberty to comment on any potential violation of the Code of Ethics or pending ethics complaint(s).

Doug Brindley
President