**WGTE Journalistic Integrity Policy**

WGTE is committed to presenting accurate, fair, and relevant local news coverage that serves the public interest and reflects our community. Our reporting adheres to the principles outlined in the *Public Media Code of Integrity*.

**News Tips and Corrections**

WGTE welcomes community input. News tips and correction requests may be submitted via **news@wgte.org**. This email address serves as both a source of community engagement and a conduit for addressing potential inaccuracies.

If a correction or clarification is warranted, WGTE staff will review the concern and determine appropriate action. This contact information will be included in all WGTE-produced news content and promoted during on-air solicitations for local story ideas.

**Independent Producers and Editorial Oversight**

Independent producers working with WGTE must adhere to both this policy and the *Public Media Code of Integrity*. All independently produced content is subject to final editorial review by WGTE prior to broadcast or publication.

Producers will be required to:

* Provide all materials and research related to a story.
* Document and justify their fact-checking processes.
* Enter into an agreement that protects WGTE and its agents from liability and ensures compliance with journalistic standards.

**Investigative Reporting and Sensitive Sources**

WGTE acknowledges the role of investigative journalism and the potential use of confidential sources. While there are currently no plans to pursue such stories, should that change, both WGTE and independent journalists will be held to the highest ethical standards and the *Public Media Code of Integrity*.

**Use of Surreptitious Newsgathering Methods**

Although WGTE does not currently engage in surreptitious reporting (e.g., hidden microphones or cameras), any future use of such methods will be subject to strict internal review and governed by this policy and the *Public Media Code of Integrity*.

**Staff Roles and Responsibilities**

WGTE staff involved in news production act as official representatives of the organization and are bound by the same standards and protections as independent producers. Contracts will be in place to clarify responsibilities and mitigate liability for both the organization and individual staff.

**Retention of Materials**

All materials gathered in the course of newsgathering—including interviews, footage, notes, and research—must be retained for a minimum of **three years**. These materials become the property of WGTE upon creation, in accordance with contractual agreements.