



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

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**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FOUR SETTLEMENTS
CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF CAMPAIGN LAWS**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of four stipulated settlement agreements which involve fines totaling \$13,000. The first agreement concerns the San Diegans for the Protection of Responsible Beach Rights, a committee formed for the purpose of opposing Proposition G (Mission Beach alcohol ban) in the March 2002 primary election. The committee's consultant and de facto treasurer, Bob Glaser, agreed to pay \$3,500 for failing to properly maintain records of contributions and expenditures, for failing to properly disclose campaign expenditures, and for failing to timely file campaign statements.

The second agreement involves Save Mission Bay Save Our Parks, a committee formed for the purpose of qualifying a measure for the ballot in the November 2002 general election. The committee failed to disclose that it was controlled by former City Councilmember Byron Wear. In addition, the committee's treasurer, F. Laurence Scott, used funds from this ballot measure committee to pay an invoice previously submitted by his firm (Scott & Cronin) to the Wear for Mayor Committee. This payment of \$335.66 violated local contribution limits to candidate committees (\$250), and also violated the ban on contributions from organizations to candidates. Finally, the committee failed to pay two campaign vendors within 90 days as required by local law. The Commission's investigation revealed that Scott used the ballot

measure committee funds to pay the invoice previously submitted to Wear's mayoral committee without Wear's knowledge or consent. Accordingly, Wear agreed to pay a fine of \$500 and Scott agreed to pay a fine of \$3,000.

The third agreement concerns the Mount Soledad Memorial Association. The Association spent approximately \$25,000 to oppose Proposition K in the November 2004 general election, but failed to file campaign statements disclosing these activities. In addition, the Association failed to include the requisite "paid for by" disclosure on a mass mailings (200 pieces of campaign literature sent within a single calendar month). The Association agreed to pay a fine of \$1,500 in connection with these violations. The Commission's investigation revealed that the Association has no prior history of participating in campaign activities, and was therefore unaware of the disclosure requirements in local and state law.

The fourth agreement involves the Friends of Bruce Williams, a committee formed to support the candidacy of Bruce Williams in the District 4 special election on November 16, 2004. Mr. Williams agreed to pay a fine of \$4,500 for accepting contributions totaling \$228.80 from business entities, for failing to disclose all contributions and expenditures, and for depositing contributions prior to obtaining the contributors' occupation and employer information. Although every candidate for elective City office is responsible for complying with local campaign laws, the Commission's investigation revealed that Mr. Williams attempted to retain several professional campaign treasurers, each of whom turned him down. The Commissioners considered this factor in mitigation when determining the appropriate amount of the fine.

Ethics Commission fines are paid to the City of San Diego's General Fund. The stipulated settlements approved by the Commission resolve all factual and legal issues without holding an administrative hearing.

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