



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ethics Commission**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH  
CITY ATTORNEY FOR UNLAWFUL SOLICITATION OF CAMPAIGN  
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CITY EMPLOYEES**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of a stipulated settlement agreement with City Attorney Michael Aguirre. Aguirre, a candidate for re-election in the June 2008 primary election, has agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,500 in connection with e-mails sent by his campaign consultant in March of 2008 to 133 City employees that included solicitations for campaign contributions. Although the campaign consultant sent the e-mails without Aguirre's knowledge or consent, Ms. Fulhorst explained that under local law candidates are responsible for the actions of their campaign representatives. According to Ms. Fulhorst, the fact that two of the City employees who received the e-mail solicitations were Council President Scott Peters and Councilmember Brian Maienschein (both of whom were running against Aguirre in the June 2008 primary election) suggests that the inclusion of City employees was inadvertent. Finally, Ms. Fulhorst noted that the City Attorney has represented that he will not accept any contributions from the City employees as a result of the improper solicitation, a factor in mitigation considered by the Commission.

The Commission Chairman, Gil Cabrera, commented that "the prohibition on soliciting campaign contributions from City employees in intended to ensure that City employees do not feel obligated to give money to candidates who may ultimately have influence and authority over them." Chairman Cabrera clarified that the City's laws only prohibit solicitations by City candidates; they do not prohibit City employees from making contributions to the City candidates of their choice.

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 the necessity of holding an administrative hearing.

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