



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH
FORMER COUNCIL CANDIDATE 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 Stephen Whitburn, former candidate for City Council District 3 in the 2008 election cycle. Mr. Whitburn has agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$200 in connection with contribution solicitations that his campaign sent by e-mail to a master list that included five current City employees. Ms. Fulhorst noted that Mr. Whitburn 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 law prohibiting City candidates from soliciting contributions from City employees is an important safeguard designed to ensure that City employees do not feel compelled to give money to candidates who may ultimately have authority over them as elected officials." 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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