



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Stacey Fulhorst
San Diego Ethics Commission
(619) 533-3476

**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT
WITH BARTELL & ASSOCIATES CONCERNING
VIOLATIONS OF LOBBYING LAWS**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of a stipulated settlement agreement with Bartell & Associates, a registered lobbying firm owned and operated by Jim Bartell. Bartell & Associates has agreed to pay a fine of \$1,500 for failing to timely file a quarterly disclosure report in 2009, and failing to timely register in 2010.

Ms. Fulhorst explained that Bartell & Associates did not file a disclosure report for the fourth quarter of 2009 until April 6, 2010, approximately two months late and only after the firm was contacted by Ethics Commission staff. In addition, Bartell & Associates did not register as a lobbying firm in 2010 until April 15, 2010, even though it met the registration threshold (a single lobbying contact on behalf of a client) on March 3, 2010.

Commission Chairman Larry Westfall commented that, "The timely filing of registration forms and quarterly disclosure reports is essential in terms of ensuring that the public has prompt access to information regarding compensated efforts to influence municipal decisions." Mr. Westfall added that, in this matter, Bartell & Associates has a history of late filing, which was a key factor in determining the 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 the necessity of holding an administrative hearing.

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