



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ethics Commission**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, April 13, 2017

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**ETHICS COMMISSION LEVIES \$15,000 FINE  
IN CONNECTION WITH COMMITTEE'S FAILURE  
TO DISCLOSE ITS SPONSORS**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of a stipulated settlement agreement with the San Diego–Imperial Counties Labor Council ALF-CIO, and the Center on Policy Initiatives, the sponsors of San Diegans for the Minimum Wage – Yes on Prop I, a committee formed to support a measure on the June 2016 ballot to increase the City's minimum wage. According to the terms of the agreement, the Respondents will pay a fine of \$15,000 for failing to include proper disclosures on campaign advertisements disseminated to voters and campaign statements filed with the City Clerk.

According to Ms. Fulhorst, the City's campaign laws require "paid for by" disclosures on campaign advertisements so that voters will know who prepared and distributed the advertisements. To ensure that these disclosures convey meaningful information, the law requires that they identify not just the committee name, but also the committee's sponsors and major donors. In this case, Respondents failed to include any "paid for by" disclosure on two phone banks. In addition, although Respondents disseminated door hangers, campaign mailers, and Internet video advertisements that included a disclosure indicating that they were "paid for by San Diegans for the Minimum Wage," the disclosures did not identify the Labor Council and the Center on Policy Initiatives as committee sponsors. Ms. Fulhorst noted that although the identity of committee sponsors must also be included on campaign statements filed with the City Clerk, the statements filed by Respondents failed to include this information.

The Commission Chairman, Clyde Fuller, commented that the stiff penalty was warranted in light of the seriousness of the violations. He added that the failure to provide required information on campaign advertisements and disclosure statements “had the effect of depriving the public of essential information that might have influenced their votes concerning the minimum wage ballot measure.”

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. Stipulations can be viewed on the Commission’s website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/ethics/documents/stipulations.shtml>.

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