



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ethics Commission**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ETHICS COMMISSION LEVIES \$16,000 FINE  
IN CONNECTION WITH COMMITTEE'S FAILURE  
TO DISCLOSE ITS TOP DONORS ON CAMPAIGN ADS**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of a stipulated settlement agreement with San Diegans for Full Voter Participation, a political committee formed to support two measures approved by voters in the November 2016 general election: Measure K requires runoff elections for City candidates and Measure L requires citizen initiatives and referendums to be placed on November general election ballots. As a result of the committee's failure to correctly identify its top two contributors on campaign signs, yard signs, mailers, a television advertisement, door hangers, and robo-calls, the committee, its treasurer, and its consultant have paid fines totaling \$16,000.

Ms. Fulhorst explained that the identification of a committee's top two contributors on campaign ads serves the important purpose of providing voters with relevant information regarding the individuals and entities who are financially supporting the committee's efforts and whose interests may be affected by the election outcome. She noted that, in this case, "the committee failed to correctly identify its top two donors on 50% of its campaign ads, which is significant given that the committee spent over \$1 million to support the two measures." Moreover, she observed that each violation involved the failure to identify a labor-related entity, which in turn deprived the public of information that may have influenced their votes on the measures.

Commission Chair Deborah Cochran noted that the imposition of a significant fine was appropriate in light of the factors in aggravation. In particular, she pointed out that the committee failed to correctly identify its top two donors on a substantial number of campaign advertisements despite the fact that the committee had received and deposited large contributions from these donors before the orders were placed. According to the Chair, “the committee representatives provided no reasonable excuse for their failure to comply with the City’s disclosure requirements.”

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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