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Ethics Commission Announces Hiring of Executive Director

SAN DIEGO – Sid Voorakkara, Chair of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission’s selection of Sharon Spivak to serve as its next Executive Director. Ms. Spivak has a distinguished 25-year career as an attorney, most recently serving as a Senior Deputy in the City Attorney’s Office where she has advised elected officials and members of boards and commissions on a variety of complex issues, including election law, conflicts of interest, open meeting laws, and public records laws. She has also been responsible for reviewing the Ethics Commission’s legislative proposals and interfacing with Commission staff. Ms. Spivak’s professional experience also includes 10 years as a litigation attorney in the private sector and 9 years as a reporter for the San Diego Union Tribune. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego.

According to Commission Chair Voorakkara, Ms. Spivak is well prepared to assume the duties and responsibilities of Executive Director. “Her considerable experience and familiarity with the laws administered by the Commission, coupled with an extensive knowledge of City government, make her the ideal candidate.” He added that the Commissioners were extremely impressed with her breadth of knowledge and professional accomplishments, as well as her demonstrated commitment to open and transparent government.

Commissioner Tom Hebrank, who led the ad hoc committee for recruitment, noted that approximately 500 people applied for the position. The Commission’s consultant, Blair Search Partners, reviewed the applications and selected 18 candidates for the Commission’s review. Following two rounds of interviews, the Commission unanimously selected Ms. Spivak.

Ms. Spivak will succeed Stacey Fulhorst, who has held the position since 2003 and is retiring. Her appointment must be confirmed by the City Council. If confirmed, she will be an unclassified management employee with a salary of \$180,000 per year

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