



**Minutes for the Meeting of
Thursday, September 14, 2023**

Item 1: Call to Order

The Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair Caridad Sanchez, Vice Chair Paul Cooper, and Commissioners Tom Hebrank and Jimmie Slack

Staff – Executive Director Sharon Spivak, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Audit Program Manager Rosalba Gomez, Legislative Program Manager Megan Curran, Education Program Manager Ryan O’Connor, and Program Manager of Administration and Training Victoria Velasquez

Item 3: Random Drawing of Campaign Committees to be Subject to Ethics Commission Audit for the 2022 Election Cycle

The City Clerk’s Office, led by Deputy Director Jennifer Berry and Elections Analyst Mark Moreno, conducted the live, random drawing of the names of each campaign committee from the City of San Diego’s 2022 election cycle that will be subject to an audit by the Ethics Commission. The drawing was held in compliance with the Commission’s governing procedures. Commissioners thanked the Clerk’s Office for their work on the drawing. The Executive Director thanked the Clerk’s Office and Ms. Gomez for their work to ensure all committees were properly included.

The list of the selected committees is available on the Commission’s website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/ethics/documents/audits/23auditselection>

Item 4: Approval of Commission Minutes of August 17, 2023

Motion:	Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded:	Cooper/Slack
Vote:	Carried Unanimously

Item 5: Non-Agenda Public Comment

Mr. Greg Hodosevich introduced himself as a former candidate for San Diego County elective office and indicated that he was interested in the Ethics Commission and its work.

Item 6: Commissioner Comment

None

Item 7: Executive Director Comment

The Executive Director discussed a November 2024 ballot measure proposal to change the appointment process for the City's Redistricting Commission. The proponents initially proposed that Ethics Commissioners serve as the Appointing Authority. She noted that this would be a conflict, as the Ethics Commission has enforcement jurisdiction over Redistricting Commissioners. She noted that she and Commissioner Hebrank appeared before the Council's Rules Committee to explain this. Councilmembers have now advanced the proposal to change the Appointing Authority but will not include Ethics Commissioners in the proposal.

The Executive Director also reported that she spoke about the Commission's work at the annual conference of the California Political Attorneys Association. She reported that attorneys there praised the San Diego Ethics Commission and its staff for their work and reputation.

She provided Commissioners with the City Clerk's quarterly lobbying report, which gathers information from all lobbyist filings.

The Executive Director noted that she has not heard anything regarding appointments of Commissioners to fill the Commission's three vacancies on the seven-member board, which continues to present quorum issues. She said the Council will soon docket the reappointment of Chair Sanchez for Council confirmation.

Item 8: General Counsel Comment

None

Item 9: Discussion of Potential Expansion of Ethics Commission's Jurisdiction

The Commission provided the Executive Director with additional feedback regarding the Auditor's recommendation that the Commission's jurisdiction expand to include approximately 750 classified City employees who file Form 700 Statements of Economic Interests. The Commission directed the

Executive Director to make clear in a memorandum to City management that the expansion cannot be accomplished without additional staff and budgeting, and an appropriate timeline for implementation.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Executive Director Compensation

This item was continued until after Closed Session was completed and when Open Session had been reconvened. This allowed the Commission to hear Closed Session Items 3 and 4 first. (See below.)

Item 11: Announcement of Closed Session Items / Adjourn to Closed Session.

Commission Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting to closed session at 5:39 p.m. She stated the Commission would reconvene into open session following the conclusion of closed session to report any action taken during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Reconvene to Open Session

Commission Chair Sanchez called the meeting back into open session at approximately 6:12 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of September 14, 2023

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of September 14, 2023:

Item-1: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-20 – Campaign Disclosure and Deposits

Motion: Authorize Investigation

Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Slack

Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 2: Conference with Legal Counsel

**Case Nos. 2023-21, 2023-22, 2023-23, 2023-24, 2023-25, and 2023-26
Disclosure of Economic Interests**

Motion: Authorize Investigations

Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Hebrank

Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 3: Conference with Labor Negotiator

No reportable action.

Item 4: Public Employee Performance Evaluation

No reportable action.

Open Session Item 10:

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Executive Director Compensation

Following the Executive Director's Annual Review in Closed Session, the Ethics Commission reconvened into Open Session to discuss compensation.

Motion:	Approve 3% Salary Increase for Executive Director
Moved/Seconded:	Sanchez/Cooper
Vote:	Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 6:23 p.m.

[REDACTED]

Caridad Sanchez, Chair
Ethics Commission

[REDACTED]

Victoria Velasquez, Program Manager
Ethics Commission

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.

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