



**Minutes for the Special Meeting of  
Thursday, November 30, 2023**

**Item 1: Call to Order**

The Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Item 2: Roll Call**

**Present** – Commission Chair Caridad Sanchez, Vice Chair Paul Cooper, and Commissioners Hon. Laura W. Halgren, James Hauser, Tom Hebrank, Jimmie Slack, and Deval Zaveri

**Staff** – Executive Director Sharon Spivak, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagne, Audit Program Manager Rosalba Gomez, Legislative Program Manager Megan Curran, and Education Program Manager Ryan O'Connor

**Item 3: Introduction of Commissioners and Commission Staff**

This was the first Ethics Commission meeting for three new Commissioners - the Hon. Laura W. Halgren, James Hauser and Deval Zaveri, who were recently appointed to the Commission. The seven Commissioners, Commission counsel and Commission staff members each introduced themselves to the group, discussing their backgrounds and work. Returning Commissioners and Commission staff welcomed the new members and noted that they look forward to working with them.

**Item 4: Approval of Commission Minutes of September 14, 2023**

Motion:	Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded:	Cooper/Hebrank
Vote:	4-0 Cooper, Hebrank, Slack, Sanchez
Abstained:	Halgren, Hauser, Zaveri

**Item 5: Non-Agenda Public Comment**

None

**Item 6: Commissioner Comment**

Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Cooper, and Commissioners Hebrank and Slack welcomed their new colleagues to the Commission. Chair Sanchez thanked the Mayor and Council for making the appointments. Vice Chair Cooper noted that they very much appreciated having the vacancies filled and, as of this meeting, having a full board of Commissioners.

**Item 7: Executive Director Comment**

The Executive Director welcomed the Commission's three new members, noting that it is the first time since July 2020 that the Commission has had a full seven-member board. She also thanked the new members for their diligence in attending separate "onboarding" meetings with Commission staff so they would be prepared for their first board meeting.

She noted that all board members will receive additional training regarding the Commission's Investigative Program at the Commission's January 2024 meeting.

The Executive Director also reported that:

- On October 17, she gave a presentation about the Ethics Commission's compliance program to a statewide group of compliance professionals. The group was comprised largely of pension and government compliance professionals, including SDCERS. The group seeks to gather compliance professionals together to learn from each other.
- The Executive Director and Education Program Manager will be teaching a fourth campaign law class on January 5, 2024 to candidates and campaign staffs involved in City races. Three others were held earlier in 2023. The additional course is designed to ensure that newer candidates and those now seeking to run for the District 4 Council vacancy have an opportunity to receive this essential training.
- The Investigative Program Manager and Executive Director will be attending the annual Council on Governmental Ethics Laws legal conference from December 3 to December 6 in Kansas City. This is the annual continuing legal education conference for those who work in the areas of ethics, campaign, lobbying, and election law.

- The Executive Director also provided an update on the Audit Committee's consideration of an audit report's recommendation to amend City laws to add certain classified city employees to the Commission's jurisdiction. Commission staff's memorandum to City management was provided with the Commission's December agenda. The memo underscored that the Commission will need a corresponding increase to budget and staffing if jurisdiction is expanded. The department is awaiting further direction from City management regarding the status of the proposal.

**Item 8: General Counsel Comment**

The General Counsel welcomed the new members and said she looked forward to working with them.

**Item 9: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding the San Diegans from Every Community in Support of Todd Gloria for Mayor 2020 Committee.**

Motion: Accept Audit Report  
 Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Slack  
 Vote: 6-0  
 Recused: Cooper

**Item 10: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding the Committee Supporting the Recall of Jennifer Campbell.**

Motion: Accept Audit Report  
 Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Slack  
 Vote: Carried Unanimously

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

Commission Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting to closed session at 5:30 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 6:26 p.m.

**Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of November 30, 2023**

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of November 30, 2023:

**Item-1: Conference with Legal Counsel**

**Case No. 2023-33 – Campaign Advertisement Disclosure**

Motion: Authorize and Dismiss Investigation;  
Accept Audit Report  
Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Hauser  
Vote: Carried Unanimously

**Item-2: Conference with Legal Counsel**

**Case No. 2023-32 – Lobbying Disclosures**

Motion: Authorize Investigation  
Moved/Seconded: Hauser/Zaveri  
Vote: Carried Unanimously

**Item 3: Conference with Legal Counsel**

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

Motion: Dismiss  
Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Halgren  
Vote: Carried Unanimously

**Item 4: Conference with Legal Counsel**

**Case No. 2022-30 – Misuse of Position**

Motion: Dismiss  
Moved/Seconded: Slack/Hebrank  
Vote: 5-0  
Recused: Cooper/Zaveri

**Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.

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Caridad Sanchez, Chair  
Ethics Commission

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Sharon Spivak, Executive Director  
Ethics Commission

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

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