



**Minutes for the Meeting of  
Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**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, and Jimmie Slack

(Note: Commissioner Slack attended for Closed Session Items 2, 3, and 5, then left at 5:40 p.m. before other items were heard out of order.)

**Absent** – Commissioner Deval Zaveri

**Staff** – Executive Director Sharon Spivak, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné, and Program Manager of Administration and Training Victoria Velasquez

Due to Commissioner attendance issues, Item 11 and the Closed Session agenda were taken first.

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

Commission Chair Sanchez called for any public comment on the Closed Session items on the agenda. She then adjourned the meeting to closed session at 5:03 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 5:53 p.m.

## Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of January 11, 2024

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of January 11, 2024:

### CS Item 1: Conference with Legal Counsel (one potential matter)

#### Case No. 2024-01 – Disclosure of \$10,000+ Donors

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

### CS Item 2: Conference with Legal Counsel

#### Case No. 2023-08 – Expenditure Lobbyist Disclosures

Motion: Approve Stipulation  
Moved/Seconded: Hauser/Halgren  
Vote: Carried Unanimously  
Absent: Zaveri

### CS Item 3: Conference with Legal Counsel

#### Case No. 2023-20 – Campaign Deposits and Disclosures

Motion: Approve Stipulation  
Moved/Seconded: Slack/Halgren  
Vote: Carried Unanimously  
Absent: Zaveri

### CS Item 4: Conference with Legal Counsel

#### Case No. 2023-32 – Lobbying Disclosure Reports

Motion: Dismiss  
Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Hauser  
Vote: Carried Unanimously  
Absent: Slack/Zaveri

### CS Item 5: Conference with Legal Counsel (one potential matter)

#### Case No. 2023-34 – Misuse of City Position or Resources

Motion: Authorize Investigation

Moved/Seconded: Halgren/Hauser  
Vote: 4-0  
Recused: Sanchez  
Absent: Zaveri

**After the Closed Session report out, the following Open Session items were heard:**

**Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes of September 14, 2023.**

Motion: Approve Minutes  
Moved/Seconded: Hauser/Halgren  
Vote: Carried Unanimously  
Absent: Slack/Zaveri

**Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment.**

None

**Item 5: Commissioner Comment.**

Commission Chair Sanchez wished the Commission and staff a Happy New Year.

**Item 6: Executive Director Comment.**

The Executive Director had the following announcements:

Commissioner Tom Hebrank has resigned his seat on the Ethics Commission, effective January 8, 2024. He was the currently longest-serving member of the Commission and in his second term. He joined the board in July 2019. Staff thanks Mr. Hebrank for his dedicated service and support.

There is now a vacancy to fill the remainder of his term, which expires June 30, 2025. Mr. Hebrank filled the category of Republican member. This seat can be filled by a member of any political party other than the Democratic Party, as the Commission has three Democrats serving. The seven-member board cannot have more than three members from any one political party.

The deadline for Commission board members to file annual Statements of Economic Interests is April 1. This does not apply to those who recently joined the board, who have met the requirement with their Assuming Office statements.

The City is now working on the budget for Fiscal Year 2025, which begins July 1, 2024. The Executive Director will have more to report on the Department's budget after meetings with City management in mid-February.

Since the last meeting, the Executive Director and Investigative Program Manager represented the office at the annual conference of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) in Kansas City. The conference provides continuing legal education that assists staff's operation of Commission programs.

On January 5, 2024, the Executive Director and Education Program Manager taught the Commission's final campaign law course of this election cycle. The course is offered to all City candidates and campaign staffs to ensure they are well trained on the City's election laws.

On January 26, 2024, the Executive Director and Education Program Manager will be providing the Commission's quarterly training course on the City's ethics laws to unclassified employees.

**Item 7: General Counsel Comment.**

General Counsel Christina Cameron discussed her role as editor of the Elections Chapter of the Municipal Law Handbook, a book that government attorneys use that is produced and edited annually by attorney members of the California League of Cities. She noted that the Commission's Executive Director and Legislative Program Manager have worked on the Handbook as well this year.

**Item 8: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding the Cory Briggs for City Attorney 2020 Committee.**

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

**Item 9: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding the Kevin Beiser for San Diego City Council 2020 Dist. 7 Committee.**

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

**Item 10: Informational Item – Training Presentation Regarding the Ethics Commission’s Investigative Program and Procedures.**

The training session was continued to the Ethics Commission meeting scheduled for March 14, 2024, so that all Commissioners can attend.

**Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 6:05 p.m.

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Caridad Sanchez, Chair  
Ethics Commission

[REDACTED]

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Victoria Velasquez, Program Manager  
Ethics Commission

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

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