



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH NICK
INZUNZA CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF CAMPAIGN LAWS**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of a stipulated settlement agreement with Nick Inunza, Mayor of National City. The agreement concerns the activities of a general purpose County committee known as Citizens for South Bay, which was controlled by Mayor Inunza. The committee was formed for multiple purposes, including supporting the candidacy of George Stevens in the City Council District 4 special election on November 16, 2004. Mayor Inunza agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$2,000 for failing to obtain and disclose occupation and employer information for contributors, and for failing to include a proper sender identification and "paid for by" disclosure on a mass mailing (200 pieces of campaign literature sent within a single calendar month).

According to the Commission's Executive Director, Stacey Fulhorst, the Commission's investigation revealed that the Committee failed to obtain and disclose occupation and employer information for eight individuals who contributed \$250 each. These contributions were used to fund the expenditure supporting Stevens as a City candidate. Fulhorst explained that the occupation and employer information is "key information typically used to assess the nature and interests of campaign supporters."

The Commission's investigation also revealed that the mass mailing sent by the Committee in support of Stevens included a sender identification and a "paid for by" disclosure that appeared in 6-point type instead of the required 12-point type. In addition, neither the sender identification nor the "paid for by" disclosure were followed by the Committee's street address as required by local law. The Commission Chair, Dorothy Leonard, commented that the size of the disclosure is an important aspect of the requirement. She added that, "The Commission staff has received complaints from members of the public regarding the difficulty of identifying the source of campaign mailers." Because of changes to the law recommended by the Ethics Commission and adopted by the City Council, campaign mailers must now include a sender identification and "paid for by" disclosure in a typeface that is easily legible, in a color that contrasts with the background, and is no less than 12 points in size.

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 holding an administrative hearing.

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