



**Minutes for Meeting of
Wednesday, December 11, 2002**

Item-1: Call to Order. (Time: 3:00:46 p.m.)

Chairperson Dorothy Leonard called the meeting to order.

Item-2: Roll Call. (Time: 3:02:05 p.m.)

Present – Chairperson Dorothy Leonard, Vice-Chairperson Albert Gaynor, Commissioners Lisa Foster, Charles La Bella, and Greg Vega.

Staff - Executive Director Charles Walker, Deputy City Attorney Rick Duvernay, Legal Assistant Steve Ross, Investigator Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Secretary DonnaLee McCalla.

Excused – Commissioners April Riel and Dorothy Smith.

Item-3: Presentation by Robert Stern, Center for Governmental Studies regarding the Election Campaign Control Ordinance [ECCO]. (Time: 3:02:17)

Robert Stern, principal author of the Political Reform Act of 1974, and former General Counsel of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, is a recognized expert on campaign finance reform, with extensive experience with campaign finance law on the local, state, and national levels. Mr. Stern presented the following nine recommendations for San Diego to consider incorporating into local law, with public comment and discussion to follow:

1. Review the \$250 contribution limit to determine whether it should be increased;
2. Tribute contributions from children to their parents;
3. Adopt electronic filing of campaign statements of expenditures of \$10,000 or more, or determine a threshold;
4. Audit all campaign statements of persons spending \$25,000 or more, looking specifically for money laundering questions;

5. Change the vendor debt credit requirements back to what they were before they were amended so that there are no extensions or credit for more than 30 days;
6. Require the date of expenditures to be listed on campaign statements to enforce the vendor credit requirements;
7. Limit loans from candidates to no more than \$25,000 to their own campaigns for City Council and perhaps \$50,000 for Mayoral and City-wide offices;
8. Conform definitions in San Diego law to the Political Reform Act unless there is good reason not to;
9. Consider public financing programs.

Commissioner Gaynor suggested adding a 10th item to the list: Limitations on period of time candidates can raise money for a campaign, e.g., 18 to 24 months before an election.

Speaker Mel Shapiro expressed his approval of the recommendations and added suggestions regarding accrued expenses and the audit process as it pertains to money laundering.

Speaker April Boling presented her understanding and concerns of the recommendations, and asked questions regarding the change in the vendor extension of credit, loans from candidates, and where credit cards fit in.

Speaker Michael Beck, League of Conservation Voters San Diego, asked if a statewide organization (League of Conservation Voters) could assist local chapters make independent expenditures, and how would you define the relationship between the two organizations.

Speaker Stanley Imber, Common Cause, together with the League of Women Voters, stated that they are about to present a free air time campaign proposal to television and radio stations in addition to vouchers to candidates for free ads on television and radio in the month run-up to an election, and asked if this would be an effective method of controlling money in campaigns.

Chairperson Dorothy Leonard announced that the Ethics Commission will be hosting a public forum to give the citizens of San Diego an opportunity to address campaign finance related concerns and suggestions on Saturday, January 11, 2003, located in the City Council Chambers, at 10:00 a.m. Citizens who wish to participate should contact the Ethics Commission office to schedule a time to speak.

Further, the Ethics Commission will continue its discussion of possible changes to ECCO over the next several months. Regular scheduled meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Committee Room, City Administration Building. Agendas are posted on the City of San Diego's website: www.sandiego.gov/ethics.

Item-4: Non-Agenda Public Comment. (Time: 4:41:11 p.m.)

Kathleen Blavatt expressed her concerns of campaign spending and contributions pertaining to advertising and mass mailing. Chairperson Leonard responded that the Commission does not initiate complaints. Complaints must be filed with the Ethics Commission office. The complaint form can be accessed on the internet or through the office, and the violation cannot be carried forward prior to 2001.

Item-5: Approval of Commission Minutes. (Time: 4:44:38 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2002.

Motion/Second: Foster/Gaynor

Vote: Unanimous approval

Excused: Riel/Smith

Item-6: Commissioner Comment. (Time: 4:45:02 p.m.)

Chairperson Leonard asked that all Commissioners attend at least one of the ongoing ethics training sessions, and expressed the importance of knowing what is being conveyed at the trainings. The City unclassified training schedule was distributed.

Vice-Chair Gaynor expressed that the Commission staff, its operation, individually and as a group, has done a splendid job. Chairperson Leonard concurred that the Commission has had an exceptional year because of its staff.

Item-7: Executive Director Comment. (Time: 4:46:54 p.m.)

Executive Director Charles Walker reported on the following:

Larry Hinman, University of San Diego's Values Institute, complimented the commissioners who participated in their conference. Formation of a regular group is planned and will be named the Ethics Consortium of Southern California. They have asked if the Commission would participate. Mr. Walker responded that he would hear what their overall objectives and goals are, and relay that information to the Commission. If their goals are compatible to the Commission, he will participate as an advisor on behalf of the Commission.

Item-8: Deputy City Attorney Comment. (Time: 4:48:39 p.m.)

None.

Item-9: Ad-hoc Revolving Door Subcommittee.

(Time: 4:48:47 p.m.)

Legal Assistant Steve Ross presented the changes that were made to the Revolving Door provision of the Ethics Ordinance based on Commission recommendations. The Mayor's Office has requested that the proposed changes be submitted to his staff for review and comment prior to the approval process.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVOLVING DOOR PROVISION OF THE ETHICS ORDINANCE.

Motion/Second: Foster/Gaynor

Vote: Unanimous approval

Excused: Riel/Smith

Item 10: Adjournment.

(Time: 4:51:51 p.m.)

Chairperson Dorothy Leonard adjourned the meeting and announced that the Commission will convene in Closed Session in the Ethics Commission conference room.

Dorothy Leonard, Chairperson
Ethics Commission

DonnaLee McCalla, Executive Secretary
Ethics Commission

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