



**Minutes for Meeting of
Thursday, March 14, 2019**

Item 1: Call to Order

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

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair Deborah Cochran, Commission Vice Chair Sid Voorakkara, and Commissioners Bill Baber, Fred Kosmo, Alex Kreit, and Dave Potter

Staff – Executive Director Stacey Fulhorst, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Education Program Manager Stephen Ross, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné, Audit Program Manager Rosalba Gomez, and Program Coordinator Victoria Velasquez

Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes of February 7, 2019

Motion:	Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded:	Potter/Kosmo
Vote:	Carried Unanimously

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 5: Commissioner Comment

None

Item 6: Executive Director Comment

Ms. Fulhorst reminded the Commissioners that the deadline to file their Statements of Economic Interests with the City Clerk is April 2, 2019 in light of the holiday on April 1, 2019.

She also reminded the Commissioners that the California Fair Political Practices Commission will be holding its monthly meeting in San Diego on Thursday, May 16, 2019 starting at 10:00 a.m. She invited the Commissioners to attend.

Item 7: General Counsel Comment

None

Item 8: Proposed Amendments to Municipal Lobbying Ordinance

Ms. Fulhorst provided an overview of the staff report regarding two issues associated with the required disclosure of activity expenses by registered lobbying entities. She explained that the current language (which was adopted prior to the formation of the Ethics Commission) could require the disclosure of information when there is no connection between the lobbying activity and the City Official who benefitted from the payment. In light of the potentially unintended consequences, staff recommends narrowing the disclosure requirement to compensation provided to City Officials (or their immediate family members) whose departments or agencies have been the subject of lobbying activities in the past twelve months, or foreseeably may be within the next twelve months.

Additionally, staff received suggestions from several lobbying entities that employment-related activity expenses should be disclosed in dollar ranges rather than specific amounts. The proposed change would make it simpler for filers to calculate salary and benefits, and it would also afford some measure of privacy for the individuals receiving compensation. If the Commission is amenable to this suggestion, staff proposes ranges similar to those provided on the annual Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 but divided by four because the lobbyist disclosures are filed quarterly.

Bradley Hertz with The Sutton Law Firm provided public comment supporting the proposed amendments.

Commission Chair Cochran expressed her view that the proposed changes would not diminish the goal of providing relevant information to the public.

Commissioner Kosmo agreed with Commissioner Cochran and noted that the current law could create a trap for the unwary.

Commissioner Kreit recommended the inclusion of additional dollar ranges to address potentially nefarious situations in which a City Official is benefitting from payments over \$100,000 per quarter. Staff responded that they could add two additional categories: \$25,001 - \$100,000, and over \$100,000.

Motion: Support the staff recommendations and instruct staff to prepare draft amendments
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Kosmo
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 9: Adjourn to Closed Session

Commission Chair Cochran adjourned the meeting to closed session at approximately 5:25 p.m. She stated the Commission would reconvene into open session following the conclusion of closed session in order to report any action taken during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Reconvene to Open Session

Commission Chair Cochran called the meeting back into open session at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of March 14, 2019

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of March 14, 2019:

Item-1: Conference with Legal Counsel (2 potential matters)

Case Nos. 2019-07 and 2019-08 – Reporting Campaign Contributions: Lobbying Firms

Motion: Authorize Investigations
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Kreit
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item-2: Conference with Legal Counsel (3 potential matters)

Case No. 2018-42 – Paid for by – Mass Campaign Literature

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Potter/Kosmo
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Case No. 2018-45 – Paid for by – Mass Campaign Literature

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Voorakkara
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Case No. 2019-03 – Failure to Disclose Accrued Expenses

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Potter/Kosmo
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item-3: Conference with Legal Counsel (1 potential matter)

Case No. 2019-06 – Paid for by – Telephone Communications

Motion: Authorize Investigation
Moved/Seconded: Potter/Kosmo
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:05 p.m.

[REDACTED]

Deborah Cochran, Chair
Ethics Commission

[REDACTED]

Victoria Velasquez, Program Coordinator
Ethics Commission

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

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