



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

Item 1: Call to Order

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

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair Sid Voorakkara, and Commissioners Bill Baber, Deborah Cochran, Tom Hebrank, Fred Kosmo, and Dave Potter

Absent – Commission Vice Chair Alex Kreit

Staff – Executive Director Stacey Fulhorst, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné, and Program Coordinator Victoria Velasquez

Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes of October 10, 2019

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

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 5: Executive Director Comment

Ms. Fulhorst informed the Commissioners that the Commission office is scheduled to move to 101 Ash Street in December.

Ms. Fulhorst also thanked Commissioner Cochran for her dedication and contributions to the Commission over the past eight years.

Item 6: Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Cochran indicated that she enjoyed her tenure on the Commission. She thanked the Commissioners and staff.

Commission Chair Voorakkara and Commissioners Baber, Hebrank, Kosmo and Potter each expressed their gratitude for Commissioner Cochran's service to the Commission, and said that it was a pleasure working with her.

Item 7: General Counsel Comment

General Counsel Christina Cameron also said that it was a pleasure working with Commissioner Cochran.

Item 8: Proposed Amendments to Ethics Commission Audit Manual

Commission Chair Voorakkara provided a recap of the Commission's prior discussions at the September meeting concerning potential updates to the Audit Manual with emphasis on the \$10,000 threshold for committees subject to audit.

Ms. Fulhorst reported that staff subsequently performed research regarding the committees subject to audit in other jurisdictions, and created charts with information regarding the committees subject to and selected for audit in the \$10,000 - \$49,999 pool for the last four election cycles. She provided an overview of the staff report, and noted that contribution limits have significantly increased since the last Audit Manual update in 2007.

Commissioner Baber suggested that the Commission discuss potential updates to the Audit Manual at least once every ten years. He expressed his opinion that staff time would be better spent on committees with a higher level of financial activity. He also noted that, in his experience, professional treasurers are not inclined to work for candidates who raise less than \$14,000 and suggested raising the audit pool floor to at least \$15,000.

Commissioner Hebrank expressed support for increasing the audit pool floor to account for inflation and the increase in contribution limits.

Commissioner Kosmo indicated that he would consider auditing 100% of committees that raised over \$100,000, similar to the Los Angeles and San Francisco Ethics Commissions. He asked Ms. Fulhorst to inquire about the impact to Ms. Gomez' workload if the Commission decided to audit 100% of committees that raised over \$100,000. He also expressed support for raising the audit pool floor.

In response to a question from Commissioner Baber, Ms. Fulhorst denied that Ms. Gomez tracks the time she spends on each audit; however, she will ask Ms.

Gomez if it is possible for her to estimate the amount of time she spent auditing each committee over the past two election cycles. Commissioner Baber explained that he does not want the Commission to conduct fewer audits; instead, he would like to focus the Commission's audit resources on committees with greater financial activity.

To facilitate continued discussion at the next Commission meeting, Ms. Fulhorst stated that staff will prepare a summary and analysis of the committees in all of the audit pools for the past four election cycles. Staff will also contact professional treasurers to determine if they have fundraising thresholds for accepting new clients.

Item 9: Release of Investigative Files - Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Fulhorst reported that the Commission has received a request for copies of investigative materials in a closed file. She explained that, in accordance with the Commission's Operating Policies, Commission Chair Voorakkara has asked Commissioners Hebrank and Potter to serve on an ad hoc committee to consider the request with the Executive Director and General Counsel.

Item 10: Adjourn to Closed Session

Commission Chair Voorakkara adjourned the meeting to closed session at approximately 5:40 p.m. He 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 Voorakkara called the meeting back into open session at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of November 14, 2019

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

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

Case No. 2019-38 – Paid for by – Mass Campaign Literature

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

Item-2: Conference with Legal Counsel (5 potential matters)

Case No. 2019-19 – Content of Campaign Statements

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Cochran
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kreit

Case No. 2019-31 – Content of Quarterly Report: Lobbying Firm

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Kosmo/Hebrank
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kreit
Abstained: Baber

Case Nos. 2019-32 and 2019-33 – Content of Quarterly Report: Lobbying Firm and Organization Lobbyist

Motion: Approve Stipulations
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Cochran
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kreit

Case No. 2019-36 – Accepting Contributions from Organizations

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Potter
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kreit

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

[REDACTED]

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Sid Voorakkara, Chair
Ethics Commission

Victoria Velasquez, Program Coordinator
Ethics Commission

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

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