



**Minutes for Meeting of
Thursday, January 9, 2020**

Item 1: Call to Order

Commission Chair Voorakkara called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair Sid Voorakkara, Commission Vice Chair Alex Kreit, and Commissioners Bill Baber, Tom Hebrank, Dave Potter, and Caridad Sanchez

Absent – Commissioner Fred Kosmo

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

Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes of November 14, 2019

Motion:	Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded:	Baber/Potter
Roll Call Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kosmo
Abstained:	Sanchez

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 5: Commissioner Comment

Commission Chair Voorakkara welcomed Commissioner Sanchez and Commissioner Sanchez introduced herself to the Commission.

Commission Vice Chair Kreit explained that he will be attending Commission meetings via telephone until he relocates to Kentucky, at which time he will no longer be a resident of San Diego and will resign. General Counsel Christina Cameron explained that Commissioner Kreit may continue to serve on the Commission as long as he is considered an elector of the County of San Diego, and until he establishes residency and registers to vote elsewhere.

Item 6: Executive Director Comment

Ms. Fulhorst welcomed Commissioner Sanchez to the Commission.

Ms. Fulhorst also provided some highlights from the 2019 Annual Report. As reflected in the report, the Commission's number one priority and focus is on education and training. In terms of enforcement, the statistics in the report reflect an ongoing trend of a gradual decrease in enforcement activities. She attributed this trend to the success of the Commission's educational and enforcement efforts. Lastly, she commended the Commission's Audit Program Manager, Rosalba Gomez, for completing all of the audits from the 2016 election cycle before she started on the audits for the 2018 election cycle.

Item 7: General Counsel Comment

General Counsel Christina Cameron also welcomed Commissioner Sanchez to the Commission.

Item 8: Proposed Amendments to Ethics Commission Audit Manual

Ms. Fulhorst provided a brief overview of the Commission's prior discussions concerning potential updates to the Audit Manual with emphasis on the \$10,000 threshold for committees subject to audit. She also provided an overview of the staff report.

Commissioner Baber asked Ms. Gomez whether the potential increase in the number of audits would create a burdensome workload for her. She responded that an increase in the number of committees that raise over \$100,000 coupled with a decrease in the number of committees that raise less than \$25,000 should not be problematic because the larger committees tend to have professional treasurers who help make the audit process more efficient.

Commission Chair Voorakkara asked staff to gather data regarding the number of committees that would have been audited over the past four election cycles if 100% of committees that raised \$50,000 had been selected for audit.

Item 9: Recruitment for Executive Director in 2020

Commission Chair Voorakkara reported that Commissioners Hebrank and Kosmo will serve with him on an ad hoc subcommittee formed for the purpose of recruitment and hiring of Ms. Fulhorst's successor. Commissioner Hebrank suggested that the ad hoc committee provide a verbal report to the full Commission at each regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Item 10: Adjourn to Closed Session

Commission Chair Voorakkara adjourned the meeting to closed session at approximately 5:55 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 6:35 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of January 9, 2020

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of January 9, 2020:

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

Case No. 2020-01 – Failure to Maintain Campaign Records

Motion:	Authorize Investigation
Moved/Seconded:	Potter/Hebrank
Roll Call Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kosmo

Case No. 2020-02 – Disclosure of Economic Interests

Motion:	Authorize Investigation
Moved/Seconded:	Hebrank/Potter
Roll Call Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kosmo

Case No. 2020-04 – Paid for by – Mass Media Advertisements

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Baber
Roll Call Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kosmo

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

Case No. 2019-34 – Paid for by – Mass Campaign Literature

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Baber/Potter
Roll Call Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kosmo

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

Motion: Authorize Expanded Investigation
Moved/Seconded: Potter/Hebrank
Roll Call Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Kosmo

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

[REDACTED]

Sid Voorakkara, Chair
Ethics Commission

[REDACTED]

Victoria Velasquez, Program Coordinator
Ethics Commission

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UPON REQUEST.***

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