



Ethics Commission

**Minutes for the Meeting of
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Item 1: Call to Order

The Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair Caridad Sanchez, Commission Vice Chair Paul Cooper, and Commissioners Bill Baber, Tom Hebrank, Jimmie Slack (arrived at 5:10 p.m.), and Sid Voorakkara

Staff – Executive Director Sharon Spivak, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné, Audit Program Manager Rosalba Gomez, Legislative Program Manager Megan Curran, Education Program Manager Ryan O'Connor, and Program Manager of Administration and Training Victoria Velasquez

Item 3: Proclaiming Continued Need for Virtual Monthly Meetings of the Ethics Commission During COVID-19 Emergency.

Motion: The Ethics Commission will continue to meet virtually as allowed under California Assembly Bill 361, adopting the findings contained in Resolution No. R-314566 adopted by the San Diego City Council on January 10, 2023.

Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Cooper
Roll Call Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 4: Approval of Commission Minutes of January 12, 2023

Motion: Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded: Slack/Voorakkara
Roll Call Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 5: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 6: Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Voorakkara thanked the staff for their hard work, as reflected in the Annual Report that is part of the agenda.

Item 7: Executive Director Comment

The Executive Director had three announcements.

In Person Meetings: The Executive Director announced that the March 9, 2023 meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held in person. The Governor’s COVID emergency is scheduled to end February 28, 2023, requiring City boards and commissions to resume meetings in person thereafter. This marks the end of three years of virtual meetings held during the pandemic.

The Executive Director also announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held downtown, at 451 A Street, San Diego, California 92101, in the second floor conference room. More information will be provided on the agenda.

Campaign Contribution limits: The Executive Director announced that the Commission’s staff and City Clerk’s Office have indexed the City’s contribution limits, as required by law every two years. As of February 9, 2023, the new contribution limits are:

1. Individual contributions to Council candidates: \$750 per election (per election is defined to allow this total for the primary election and then again in the general)
2. Individual contributions to candidates for Mayor or City Attorney: \$1,350 per election
3. Individual contributions in a single calendar year to an elected official’s or candidate’s Professional Expense Committee: \$750 total
4. Political Party contribution limits to a Council candidate: \$13,450 per election
5. Political Party contribution limits to a candidate for Mayor or City Attorney: \$26,800 per election

SB 1439 – “Pay to Play” Legislation: The Executive Director also announced that the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is introducing new regulations to provide guidance on the state’s “pay to play” laws. The FPPC

will meet February 16, 2023 to discuss draft regulations. Commission staff are monitoring developments.

Item 8: General Counsel Comment

None

Item 9: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding the Sherman for Mayor 2020 Committee.

Motion: Accept Audit Report
Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Hebrank
Roll Call Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 10: Presentation of 2022 Annual Report of the Ethics Commission.

Informational Item.

The Executive Director presented the Annual Report, which details the Commission staff's work in each program area in 2022. Commissioners thanked the six-member staff for their work in the past year, which is reflected in the report. The report is available on the Ethics Commission's website.

Item 11: Adjourn to Closed Session

Commission Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting to closed session at 5:39 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of February 9, 2023

The results of the closed session meeting of February 9, 2023 are as follows:

The meeting commenced at 5:41 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Commission Chair Caridad Sanchez, Commission Vice Chair Paul Cooper, and Commissioners Bill Baber, Jimmie Slack, Tom Hebrank, and Sid Voorakkara

Staff: Executive Director Sharon Spivak, General Counsel Christina Cameron, and Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné

Item 1: Conference with Legal Counsel (1 matter)

Case No. 2022-16 - Misuse of City Position or Resources

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Voorakkara
Vote: 5-0
Recused: Baber

Item 2: Conference with Legal Counsel (1 matter)

Case No. 2022-20 - Lobbying Activity/Disclosures

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Baber
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 6:25 p.m.

[REDACTED]

Caridad Sanchez, Chair
Ethics Commission

[REDACTED]

Victoria Velasquez, Program Manager
Ethics Commission

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

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