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October 2009

CPI REVIEW & AMENDMENT TO LAMC § 49.7.1.2

CF # 08-1056	Status: Pending with Rules Committee.
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In March and April 2008, the Ethics Commission conducted the first mandatory review of certain campaign finance limits, in light of changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Based on an analysis of actual contribution and expenditure patterns in City campaigns and by City officeholders, the Commission determined that no adjustments should be made to the limits at this time. However, the Commission did recommend that Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.7.1.2 be amended to improve the process for conducting future CPI reviews. A letter was transmitted to the City Council on April 25, and the matter was referred to the Rules & Elections Committee.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

CF # 09-1100-S1 CF # 09-1100-S4	Status: Pending with Rules Committee.
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On September 23, 2008, a motion (Huizar-Rosendahl) was introduced to ask the City Attorney to prepare the documents necessary to place instant runoff voting (also referred to as ranked choice voting, or RCV) on the March 2009 ballot. The motion also asked the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the City Administrative Officer to report on the feasibility of dedicating any savings realized from RCV in a special fund to support full public financing.

On October 7, 2008, another motion (Rosendahl-Huizar-Reyes) was introduced to ask the City Attorney to prepare the documents necessary to place RCV on the March 2009 ballot, with the provision that RCV would only be implemented when certified equipment/software are available.

The CLA submitted a report that cautioned against placing RCV on the ballot before affected City agencies, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the Los Angeles Community College District have an opportunity to fully evaluate the issues surrounding RCV. The report also recommended that a working group of different agencies, including the Ethics Commission, be established to identify and evaluate those issues.

The Rules & Elections Committee considered the motions on October 22 and informally agreed that more information is needed before moving forward with RCV. The committee moved the matter to the full City Council without recommendation. The City Council considered the motions on October 29, adopted the CLA's recommendation to create a working group, and directed the working group to report to the Rules & Elections Committee in July 2009.

On December 3, we met with representatives of the New American Foundation, a proponent of RCV. The foundation offered to provide data regarding the effect that RCV has had on San Francisco's partial public financing program.

The working group held its first meeting on January 22, 2009, and gathered detailed data regarding RCV, including the effect it could have on the City's campaign financing system. The working group included representatives from a number of City and county agencies and met bi-weekly through June. A report to the City Council is pending.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS CODE: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD	
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CF # 09-1519	Status: Pending with Rules Committee.
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A revised version of the conflict of interests code for the Community Development Department's Workforce Investment Board (WIB) was approved at a public meeting held on April 29, 2009. The original transmittal to the City Council occurred on June 19. The revised code was retransmitted on August 4, after we discovered that we had received an incorrect version of the code from the WIB. The code was referred to the Rules & Elections Committee and is expected to be heard soon.

LOBBYING RECOMMENDATIONS	
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CF # 07-3005-S2	Status: Pending with Rules Committee.
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On July 14, 2009, the Ethics Commission voted unanimously to approve a comprehensive proposal regarding the City's lobbying laws. Following two years of extensive analysis based on data and experiences in the City, as well as in other jurisdictions, the Commission recommended a number of changes that are designed to clarify who is subject to the lobbying laws, ensure consistency, improve efficiency, and increase the public's access to lobbying information. The proposal was transmitted to the City Council on September 3 and has been referred to the Rules & Elections Committee. We understand that the committee may consider the proposal in November.

HORIZON SNAPSHOT

October 2009

Ideal Timeline For Commission Consideration

October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	January 2010	February 2010
• Briefing on Measure L.	• Overview of GEO.	• Financial disclosure by City officials.	• GEO regs re: former City officials.	• GEO regs re: current City officials. • Ex parte communications. • Gifts to NCs and gifts of travel.

Work Underway

Issue	Target Date	Subject Area
Briefing on Measure L.	Oct 2009	Campaign Finance
Conflict of interests code for the Workforce Investment Board.	Oct 2009	Governmental Ethics
Formal advice regarding restrictions that apply to former City officials.	Oct 2009	Governmental Ethics
Ordinance that establishes a Citywide gift policy (CF # 07-3727).	Oct 2009	Governmental Ethics
Overview of GEO.	Nov 2009	Governmental Ethics
Financial disclosure by City officials.	Dec 2009	Governmental Ethics
GEO regulations regarding former City officials (CF # 07-3732).	Jan 2010	Governmental Ethics
GEO regulations regarding current City officials (CF # 05-1425).	Feb 2010	Governmental Ethics
Analysis of ex parte communications (CF #s 07-3294, 07-3294-S1).	Feb 2010	Governmental Ethics
GEO regulations regarding gifts to neighborhood councils (CF # 06-3216).	Feb 2010	Governmental Ethics
Regulations regarding gifts of travel (currently housed in CAO Rule 6).	Feb 2010	Governmental Ethics
GEO regulations regarding City contracts.	Mar 2010	Governmental Ethics
Miscellaneous GEO regulations, including training and enforcement.	Mar 2010	Governmental Ethics
Updated GEO language, based on recommendations.	Apr 2010	Governmental Ethics
Non-candidate spending laws, in the wake of Measure R (CF # 09-1221).	May 2010	Campaign Finance
Officeholder accounts.	Jun 2010	Campaign Finance
Regulations that govern Commission opinions and advice.	Jul 2010	Miscellaneous
Disgorgement and infractions policies.	Jul 2010	Campaign Finance
Transparent processes for personal services contracts (CF #s 08-1110, 08-1398).	Aug 2010	Governmental Ethics
Financial disclosure for neighborhood councils other than Form 54 (CF # 08-0351-S1).	Pending w/council	Governmental Ethics