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**LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION**

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*...preserving the public trust*

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For Immediate Release:  
Monday, April 4, 2005

For Information Contact:  
(213) 978-1960

**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION DIRECTOR ISSUES PUBLIC ACCUSATION  
FOR IMPROPER SOLICITATION OF CAMPAIGN MONEY  
FROM CITY EMPLOYEES IN 2001 ELECTIONS**

Los Angeles City Ethics Commission Executive Director LeeAnn Pelham announced today that there is probable cause to believe that Ted Hunt, Don Lint, and Mitzi Grasso, Los Angeles Police Protective League (“LAPPL”) board members during the 2001 primary election, violated Los Angeles Municipal Code section 49.7.8(A) during that election by knowingly soliciting City employees or officials for campaign contributions to support City candidates in the 2001 primary on six occasions, by urging readers of the *Thin Blue Line*, a monthly newsletter produced by the LAPPL, and over 1,200 LAPPL members who received a solicitation by electronic mail, to make political contributions to support then Council candidates Dennis Zine, Ken Hillman, and/or City Attorney candidate Lea Purwin D’Agostino. The matter will now go to the City Ethics Commission pursuant to City Charter Section 706(c) to determine whether a violation occurred. As in all cases referred to the Commission for an administrative hearing, the Respondents are presumed innocent of any violation of City law, unless and until such time that the violation is determined by the Commission at a public hearing.

Section 49.7.8(A) is intended to protect City employees from being pressured into making contributions for City candidates or officials and to relieve them from pressure to seek contributions from their colleagues, and provides that “[n]o person, including but not limited to any City official, employee, or candidate for elective City office, shall, directly or indirectly, knowingly solicit campaign contributions from any City official or employee to support or oppose the candidacy of any person for elective City office.” By eliminating that pressure, the law is designed to protect and advance the efficiency and integrity of City government by assuring that employment and advancement in City service is, and is perceived to be, based only on performance of public duties and not political performance. The section does not prohibit a person from soliciting campaign funds to support City candidates through general communications “to a significant segment of the public which may include officers or employees of the City.”

According to City law, following a finding of probable cause the Executive Director must make a public announcement of the Accusation. The Commission determines then if a violation has occurred, and it is authorized to levy fines of up to \$5,000 for each violation or three times the amount that was failed to be reported, or that was unlawfully contributed or expended, whichever is greater.

The Commission and its staff may not comment on this matter until after a final determination has been made. For a copy of the Accusation, please contact the Commission at (213) 978-1960.

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