
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

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For Immediate Release:
January 28, 2003

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Los Angeles City Council Enacts Lobbying Reforms

Today the Los Angeles City Council approved several key elements of a sweeping series of lobbying reforms proposed by the City Ethics Commission more than 17 months ago. The new legislation will take steps to limit the potential for undue access and influence by City Hall lobbyists and contractors in the City's policymaking process. Starting July this year, in addition to disclosing contributions they make, City Hall lobbyists will be required to disclose on quarterly public reports the fundraising activities they conduct on behalf of any City candidate or elected official. Further, for the first time, City officials will be prohibited from acting on matters involving a lobbyist who attempts to influence them if that lobbyist has in the prior 12 months:

- Made contributions of at least \$7,000 to committees controlled by the elected official;
- Engaged in "fundraising activities," such as hosting or sponsoring an event to raise contributions totaling at least \$10,000 on behalf of the City Councilmembers or \$25,000 on behalf of City-wide elected officials;
- Provided the official with paid campaign consulting, legal or other professional services.

"These reforms are designed to promote a system of decision-making that is not - - and is not perceived to be - - distorted by contributions, fundraising activities, or other financial relationships that exist between private interests and public officials," said Commission Executive Director LeeAnn M. Pelham. "Reform is an ongoing process and today's action is an important step in the right direction to ensure that our laws stay strong."

As part of its action today, the Council asked its Rules Committee to consider within 30 days a motion proposed by Councilmembers Wendy Greuel, Eric Garcetti and Jack Weiss that would require contribution to or fundraising for a ballot measure committee controlled by an official to count toward recusal. In addition, they similarly sought to create a recusal requirement when a lobbyist makes a charitable donation totaling \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations at the elected official's request.

For more information, contact the City Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.

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