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**LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION**  
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For Immediate Release:  
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**BAN ON CITY COMMISSIONER FUNDRAISING**  
**WINS COUNCIL APPROVAL**

Today the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to ban the City's Board and Commission Members from engaging in political fundraising on behalf of City elected officials and candidates. If signed by Mayor James Hahn, approximately 300 part-time citizen volunteer commissioners that head City departments will be prohibited from soliciting contributions, supplying names for invitations to fundraising events or lending their name or title to appear on solicitations for campaign contributions. The ban would extend to fundraising for any candidate for City office or any City committee controlled by an elected City official. The City Ethics Commission began examining the issue in October 2003 and after four months of public debate, urged the Council to adopt the ban.

"The unanimous votes by the City Ethics Commission and the City Council indicate a strong commitment to ensure that, whether real or perceived, political fundraising is not part of the equation for awarding contracts or selecting Commissioners in the City of Los Angeles," said the Ethics Commission's Executive Director LeeAnn M. Pelham. "This is a clean and clear law that is certainly a step in that direction."

Recent published news reports have linked the awarding of City contracts to commissioners' fundraising efforts. In 1997, the City Ethics Commission recommended a similar ban on commissioner fundraising but it was not adopted at that time. The current prohibition would not preclude commissioners from making their own personal political contributions to City candidates.

Following the City Ethics Commission recommendation it made to the Council in February, the Mayor drafted his own proposals that include prohibiting elected officials from requesting a City commissioner to fundraise and requiring elected officials to disclose when they fundraise for other elected officials, candidates, political parties, ballot measures and charities. The Ethics Commission will take a look at those proposals at its March 9 meeting.

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