
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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PAUL TURNER REELECTED
CITY ETHICS COMMISSION PRESIDENT FOR FY 12-13

At its meeting yesterday, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission reelected Paul Turner to a second term as president and Valerie Vanaman to a second term as vice president. Turner and Vanaman will serve in these capacities for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Turner has extensive experience as a leader in civic engagement, election reform, and economic development policy. He served as the president of Save Africa's Children, which cares for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty, and war throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. He has also served at the Greenlining Institute, where he advised community and civil rights groups and advocated nationally for open and accountable government. He assisted with the passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (the McCain-Feingold Act). Turner began his career as the community economic development coordinator for the Union Rescue Mission on Skid Row, and he helped establish the West Angeles Community Development Corporation in South LA. Turner was originally appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in 2008, and his term on the commission will end June 30, 2015.

Vanaman is a partner at Newman Aaronson Vanaman, where her practice focuses on securing basic education for individuals challenged with disabilities, as well as rights under such laws as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Social Security Act, the Supplemental Security Income Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act. Prior to beginning her private law practice in 1981, Vanaman served nearly 15 years with various public interest organizations. Vanaman was appointed in 2009 by City Council President Pro Tem Jan Perry to a term that will end June 30, 2014.

The Ethics Commission is comprised of five individuals who serve staggered five-year terms. The Mayor, the City Attorney, the Controller, the City Council President, and the City Council President Pro Tem each have one appointment to the commission. The commissioners elect their own president and vice president each year. In addition to Turner and Vanaman, Ralph Fertig and Nathan Hochman also serve as commissioners. One seat is vacant and awaiting appointment by the City Council President.

The City Ethics Commission was created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the City's governmental ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying laws.