
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
N E W S
...preserving the public trust

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**PAUL TURNER ELECTED
CITY ETHICS COMMISSION PRESIDENT FOR FY 11-12**

At its regular meeting today, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission unanimously elected Paul Turner as its president for Fiscal Year 2011-12. Fellow commissioner Valerie Vanaman was also unanimously elected as the commission's vice president. Regarding his new presidency, Turner said, "I am honored to utilize my passion for open and honest government on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles, who created the City Ethics Commission to be an independent arbiter for preserving the public trust."

Turner is the president of Save Africa's Children and has over 16 years of experience as a leader in civic engagement, election reform, and economic development policy. He served five years at the Greenlining Institute, a nonprofit with a mission to empower disadvantaged groups, where he advised community and civil rights groups and advocated nationally for open and accountable government. He also 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, a nonprofit development group affiliated with the West Angeles Church of God in Christ.

Turner was appointed to the Ethics Commission by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in 2008, to fill a vacancy created when Robert Saltzman was appointed to the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners. Following the end of Saltzman's term, the Mayor reappointed Turner to a full five-year term that will end June 30, 2015. Turner has served as the commission's vice president since July 2009.

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, Marlene Canter also serves as a commissioner. Two other seats are currently vacant and awaiting appointments by the City Attorney and the Controller.

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