
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

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For Immediate Release:
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**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION DIRECTOR ISSUES PUBLIC ACCUSATION FOR CAMPAIGN
REPORTING VIOLATIONS BY FORMER TENTH DISTRICT COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

Los Angeles City Ethics Commission Executive Director LeeAnn Pelham announced today that there is probable cause to believe that former Tenth Council District Candidate Deron Williams and his 2003 committee, "Williams for Council - General" violated campaign disclosure provisions of City law in three instances by failing to submit required copies of the scripts his campaign used for automated telephone calls and radio ads in connection with his May 20, 2003 general election campaign. According to City law, following a finding of probable cause, the Executive Director must make a public announcement of the Accusation. The matter will now go to the agency's five-member Ethics Commission to determine whether a violation occurred. City charter section 706(c) authorizes the Commission 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. As in all cases referred to the Commission for an administrative hearing, 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.

The Accusation charges that Williams and his 2003 runoff campaign committee violated Los Angeles City Ordinance 174882 §7(a) when they failed to provide a copy of the script or recording used for automated telephone calls to contact voters and two scripts or recordings for campaign radio advertisements. That Ordinance, which took effect in October 2002, provides that "any committee that makes or incurs payments for 1,000 or more pre-recorded telephone calls or any other form of electronic or facsimile transmission of substantially similar content, or that makes or incurs expenditures of \$1,000 or more for a radio or television advertisement, in support of or opposition to any candidate(s) for City Council, shall send a copy of the script or recording used for each communication with a clear indication of the date the communication was first publicly made or aired to the Ethics Commission within one calendar day of the first time the calls, transmissions, or advertisements are made or aired."

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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