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

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**ETHICS COMMISSION HONORS ITS
CONFIDENTIALITY MANDATE**

The Ethics Commission serves the public by helping to create transparency into the workings of government. Records regarding campaign contributions, lobbying activity, the financial interests of City officials, and independent expenditure activity are all readily available to the public through the Ethics Commission.

In certain circumstances, however, the Ethics Commission is required to maintain confidentiality to protect both the public and the regulated community. For example, the Los Angeles City Charter requires the Ethics Commission to conduct investigations confidentially. Without such protection, the mere existence of an ethics investigation could be used to discredit the subject of the investigation—regardless of the merit of the underlying complaint.

“The Ethics Commission has a duty to help protect the due process rights of everyone who might become involved in an investigation,” said Commission President Paul Turner. “Without confidentiality, we risk the integrity of the process. Anyone can make an allegation about anything, but the commissioners determine that a violation has occurred only after carefully considering the evidence.”

“The Ethics Commission must remain neutral,” added Commissioner Nathan Hochman. “We take that responsibility very seriously, and it is inappropriate for anyone to make assumptions based on our silence. Nothing should be read into the fact that we are honoring our confidentiality mandate.”

If an investigation leads to enforcement action, the public is made aware in several ways. A public accusation may be issued, the matter must be placed on an Ethics Commission agenda, and the final decision is posted on the Ethics Commission’s web site. Please contact the Ethics Commission for more information.

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.