
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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ETHICS COMMISSION LEVIES \$68,000 IN FINES FOR GIFT VIOLATIONS

The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission approved ten separate settlement agreements today, with fines totaling more than \$68,000 for violations of the City's limit on gifts to City officials from restricted sources. Fines were levied against both elected City officials who received gifts and the restricted sources who gave them. All of the gifts at issue were tickets to concerts, sporting events, or awards shows.

"We believe that the limit on gifts from restricted sources, who are persons with active business before the City, is critical to the public trust," said Commission President Helen Zukin. "These laws help promote and maintain public confidence in the integrity of government decisions, which is one of the fundamental reasons the Ethics Commission exists."

The City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance prohibits City officials from soliciting or accepting gifts valued at more than \$100 per year from a single restricted source and also prohibits restricted sources from offering or making such gifts. A restricted source for elected officials is a lobbying entity, a person who has or seeks a contract with the City, a person who has knowingly attempted to influence the official regarding a matter that would have a direct material financial effect on the person, or a person who is or in the past nine months was a party to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use that was pending before the official, the City Council, or a board of which the official is a voting member.

The agreements approved today included settlements with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Council members Tony Cárdenas, Eric Garcetti, José Huizar, and Herb Wesson. The agreements also included settlements with five restricted sources: the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Anschutz Entertainment Group, Black Entertainment Television Networks, and the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. The agreement with the Mayor was a joint settlement with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and imposed a combined fine of \$41,849. The FPPC approved the joint settlement at its meeting yesterday.

All fines levied by the Ethics Commission are paid to the City's general fund. Copies of stipulations and their related decisions and orders can be obtained through the Ethics Commission's web site or by calling the Ethics Commission offices.

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.