
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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**ETHICS COMMISSION IMPOSES FINES
TOTALING \$20,000 IN TWO ENFORCEMENT CASES**

At its meeting today, the Ethics Commission unanimously approved stipulated settlements in two enforcement cases, imposing fines totaling \$20,000.

In the first case, Christopher Cooper (Cooper), a Captain with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), was fined \$5,000 for violating restrictions applicable to City officials and agency employees under the Governmental Ethics Ordinance (GEO). The GEO prohibits City officials and employees from misusing their City authority to create, or attempt to create, a private advantage or disadvantage for any person. The GEO also prohibits City officials and employees from engaging in outside employment while on City time. Cooper violated these GEO provisions by misusing his City position to attempt to develop his private business during his LAFD work hours.

In the second case, Dominick Rubalcava (Rubalcava), a registered lobbyist, was fined \$15,000 for failing to fully and accurately disclose City lobbying activities in 2015, as required by the City's Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO). Under the MLO, a lobbyist must disclose his lobbying activities by filing disclosure reports with the Ethics Commission each calendar quarter. While Rubalcava reported receiving compensation from various clients, and routinely represented those clients before multiple City agencies, his filings failed to identify any of the matters on which he lobbied. Rubalcava amended his quarterly reports to correct these omissions.

"Today's rulings show that the Ethics Commission takes its role in enforcing laws within its jurisdiction very seriously," said Director of Enforcement Sergio Perez. "The decisions today emphasize that City officials and lobbyists who fail to abide by the law are held accountable."

The fines imposed by the Ethics Commission have been paid to the City's general fund. Copies of enforcement actions and related decisions and orders are available at ethics.lacity.org.

The 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.