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**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT CASE
ALLEGES VIOLATIONS OF OFFICEHOLDER ACCOUNT PROVISIONS
BY COUNCILMEMBER BERNARD PARKS**

The Executive Director of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission today issued a public announcement that there is probable cause to believe that Eighth District Councilmember Bernard Parks and his officeholder account committee, “Bernard Parks for City Council—Officeholder Account,” violated officeholder account reporting requirements and restrictions of city law in 24 instances: by failing to file itemized reports detailing certain officeholder fund expenditures in violation of city requirements in twelve instances; by making 11 expenditures for print advertisements with officeholder account funds at a time when those expenditures are not permitted by City law; and by using officeholder funds to pay for a mailer during a period in which officeholder funds may not be used for those purposes. The announcement by Executive Director LeeAnn Pelham was made following her finding of probable cause and according to public disclosure procedures required by City law.

The enforcement matter stems from the Commission’s mandatory 2007-election cycle audits of city candidates and the political committees they control. The case now goes to the agency’s five-member Ethics Commission to determine whether the violations occurred, and if so, what penalty should apply. The City Charter §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, a respondent is 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 Commission and its staff may not comment on this matter until after a final determination has been made. A copy of the Accusation can be obtained by calling the Commission at (213) 978-1960.

The City Ethics Commission is a semi-independent agency created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the governmental ethics, campaign finance, and lobbying laws of the City of Los Angeles. With a staff of 27 and an operating budget of \$2.3 million, the Commission conducts training, provides advice, audits political campaigns, and makes legislative recommendations. It also is authorized by the voters to conduct investigations and levy administrative penalties against violators of the laws under its jurisdiction.