
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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For Immediate Release: June 9, 2015

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ETHICS COMMISSION IMPOSES \$10,000 FINE

At its meeting today, the Ethics Commission unanimously approved a stipulated order in an enforcement case involving violations of City campaign finance laws, imposing a fine totaling \$10,000.

The case involved violations of City law requiring the disclosure of independent expenditures during elections. Respondent Lamar Advertising of Los Angeles was fined \$10,000 for failing to submit copies of four independent expenditure communications to the Ethics Commission during the 2013 election cycle.

The City's Campaign Finance Ordinance imposes disclosure requirements on independent expenditures, to help ensure that the public is aware of who is spending money to influence elections. These requirements include the filing of a copy of the communication within 24 hours after making or incurring costs associated with the communication.

Lamar Advertising of Los Angeles independently funded, designed, and erected 13 billboards during the 2013 elections. A copy of each billboard was provided to the treasurer assisting Lamar Advertising of Los Angeles during the elections. However, copies of four of those billboards were not filed with the Ethics Commission.

"Campaign finance disclosure laws are essential to equipping an informed electorate and to maintaining transparency and fairness in City elections," said Sergio Perez, Director of Enforcement. "The Ethics Commission's decision today makes it clear that any failure to satisfy those requirements will be investigated and enforced against."

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

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.