
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

N E W S

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**For Immediate Release:
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**ETHICS COMMISSION FINES FORMER L.A. CITY FIRE INSPECTOR
\$30,000 FOR MISUSING CITY POSITION**

**Record Fines Imposed for Inspector Who Solicited Money from Home Care Facilities
in Exchange for LAFD Clearance**

The five-member Los Angeles City Ethics Commission today imposed record fines against a retired Los Angeles City Fire Department Inspector who solicited money from homecare facilities in exchange for providing them with a Fire Department clearance. According to a Stipulated Settlement unanimously approved by the Ethics Commission today at its regular monthly meeting, the Commission found that retired LAFD Fire Inspector Dennis Martin Archie violated the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance when he sought cash payments from various home care facility administrators in the San Fernando Valley in 2008 in exchange for granting their facilities City clearances for bedridden occupants. It is a violation of City law for any City official or employee to use his or her position to induce or coerce anyone to provide a private gain, advantage or benefit. Under the voter-approved City Charter, persons who violate this law can be fined up to \$5,000 per count or three times the amount unlawfully received, whichever is greater.

"The board's action today demonstrated its firm commitment to holding City officials and employees fully accountable for the consequences of their unlawful activity," said Commission Deputy Executive Director and Director of Enforcement Deena Ghaly. "This case sends a clear message that those who are entrusted in City government with serving and protecting its citizens will not be permitted to take advantage of their official authority or power."

As part of his settlement with the Ethics Commission, Archie admitted to violating the law in nine instances and paid a \$30,000 fine to the Commission. Previously, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office prosecuted Archie for bribery in connection with the same set of circumstances and for which, through a plea agreement, Archie was sentenced to six months in jail and paid a \$10,000 fine to Los Angeles County.

For a copy of the Commission's settlement agreement, visit <http://ethics.lacity.org>.

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