
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

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ETHICS COMMISSION IMPOSES FINES TOTALING \$47,500 IN LOBBYING DISCLOSURE CASES

At its meeting today, the Ethics Commission unanimously approved stipulated settlements in two separate enforcement cases, imposing fines totaling \$47,500.

Both cases involved lobbyist employers who violated the mandatory quarterly disclosure provisions of the City's Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO). Under the MLO, a lobbyist employer is an entity that employs a lobbyist in-house to lobby on its own behalf. A lobbyist employer is required to disclose its lobbying activities by filing disclosure reports with the Ethics Commission each calendar quarter. Information required in quarterly disclosure reports includes, among other things, total expenses incurred by the lobbyist employer in connection with its attempts to influence legislative and administrative City matters and a description of each matter the lobbyist employer attempted to influence.

In the first case, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) was fined \$30,000 for failing to fully and accurately disclose its City lobbying activities during 12 quarters. From the fourth quarter of 2011 through the third quarter of 2014, LAANE spent over \$175,000 to further its lobbying efforts in the City but did not properly report those expenditures or the matters it attempted to influence.

In the second case, Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) was fined \$17,500 for failing to fully and accurately disclose its City lobbying activities during seven quarters. From the first quarter of 2013 through the third quarter of 2014, HASC spent over \$100,000 to further its lobbying efforts in the City but did not properly report those expenditures or the matters it attempted to influence.

Both LAANE and HASC amended their quarterly reports to correct these inaccuracies.

"The people of Los Angeles have a right to know what entities and individuals are spending to influence the decisions of their City government," said Director of Enforcement Sergio Perez. "Today's orders show the Ethics Commission's commitment to transparency."

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.