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## *Minutes of the Meeting on October 17, 2017*

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### **OPENING ITEMS**

#### **1. Call to Order.**

Commission President Jessica Levinson called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: President Jessica Levinson  
Vice President Serena Oberstein  
Commissioner Araceli Campos  
Commissioner Melinda Murray  
Commissioner Andrea Sheridan Ordin

Absent: None

#### **2. Approval of minutes for the meeting on August 15, 2017.**

Public comment was received from Eric Preven.

Levinson moved to approve the minutes, and Ordin seconded. The minutes were approved 5-0.

#### **3. Possible discussion with authorized neighborhood council representatives.**

No neighborhood council resolutions or community impact statements were submitted or discussed.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **4. Review of recusals by Vilma Martinez, the president of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners.**

Staff provided an analysis of the financial interests that led to a Charter § 707 recusal review for President Martinez. Staff recommended finding that the conflict is not significant at this time.

No public comment was received.

Action: Levinson moved to adopt a resolution finding that a significant conflict does not exist at this time, and Murray seconded. The resolution was adopted 5-0.

**5. Review of recusals by Anthony Pirozzi, Jr., a member of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners.**

Staff provided an analysis of the financial interests that led to a Charter § 707 recusal review for Commissioner Pirozzi. Staff recommended finding that the conflict is not significant at this time.

No public comment was received.

Action: Levinson moved to adopt a resolution finding that a significant conflict does not exist at this time, and Oberstein seconded. The resolution was adopted 5-0.

**6. Overview of enforcement practices.**

Staff provided an overview of the agency's current enforcement policies and practices. Levinson requested an item on the December agenda regarding the possibility of providing notice to respondents of dormant investigations.

No public comment was received.

Action: Levinson moved to ratify the existing enforcement practices, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**7. Proposed stipulation in Case No. 2017-15, *In the Matter of Joseph Kouba* (alleged excess contributions).**

This item was continued to the December meeting.

**8. Selection of hearing officers in Case No. 2015-12, *In the Matter of Dr. Refugio Rodriguez and Elizabeth Melendrez* (alleged money laundering and aiding and abetting money laundering).**

Staff presented the four options available for selecting hearing officers in this case, as required by the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

Public comment was received from Bradley Hertz.

Action: Levinson moved to select an outside hearing officer (option C.2.1 in the report), and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**9. Proposed modifications to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance.**

This item was considered out of order, after Item 13. Campos recused herself and left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Staff presented public comments and analyses for recommendations regarding a bi-monthly reporting period, a 10-day disclosure deadline, the disclosure of the dates of direct

communications and the titles of the City employees involved in them, an exemption for certain 501(c)(3) organizations, and a private attorney general provision.

Public comment was received from Matt Nichols, Peter Gutierrez, Winston Stromberg, Arnie Berghoff, Jim Sutton, Deanna Kitamura, Robyn Samuels, Uyen Nune, Patrick Michell, Richard Parks, Greg Spiegel, Jessica Duboff, Brigid Kelly, Joseph Devall, Shyaam Subramanian, Nancy Berlin, Paul Rubenstein, Adam Englander, Andrew Schneiderman, and Peppita Pig.

The commission took breaks from 10:44 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and from 12:43 p.m. to 1:13 p.m.

Action: Murray moved to approve the proposed ordinance language, with the following modifications: change the disclosure deadline to 20 days after the close of a filing period; remove the private attorney general provision; revisit the proposed exemption for 501(c)(3) organizations; and revisit the proposed disclosure of direct communications. Levinson seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **10. Lobbying report (2nd Quarter 2017).**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **11. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **12. Policy and legislation report.**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **13. Executive director's report.**

The executive director presented highlights from the report, and staff provided a demonstration of the agency's new beta web site.

No public comment was received.

**CLOSING ITEMS**

**14. General public comment.**

No general public comment was received.

**15. Announcements and requests to schedule items on future agendas.**

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

**16. Adjournment.**

Levinson adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

*A complete recording of this meeting, excluding closed sessions, is on file as a public record and may be accessed at [ethics.lacity.org](http://ethics.lacity.org).*