SPECIAL BULLETIN

New State Reporting Requirements of Tickets Received by Officials Performing a Ceremonial Role

The state Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) recently adopted changes to its regulations that will now require the reporting of tickets to events at which a City official performs a ceremonial role or function on behalf of his agency. This will apply to all individuals who are required to file Statements of Economic Interests (CA Form 700). In addition, the new changes require City agencies to post this information prominently on their websites. The effective date of this change is Thursday, October 27, 2010.

The FPPC’s regulations now require a City official who receives a ticket to an event at which he performs a ceremonial role or function on behalf of his agency to disclose the ticket on state Form 802. 2 Cal. Code of Regulations §§ 18942(a)(13), 18944.1. The official’s agency is required to prominently post the form on its website within 30 days of the official’s receipt of the ticket. If the form is not completed and posted within 30 days, the ticket is a gift to the official and subject to state gift limits and Form 700 reporting requirements.

These new regulations only affect state disclosure provisions and do not change the City’s gift restrictions. Therefore, tickets provided to City officials by lobbyists and other restricted sources continue to be limited or prohibited. For more information, please contact us or consult our brochure on gift limits and restrictions.

Although Form 802 was also created for the disclosure of tickets that an agency distributes to its officials and other organizations, it cannot be used for that purpose until a written ticket distribution policy is adopted by the City or by an agency that has the authority to adopt a policy.

The FPPC is in the process of addressing questions related to these regulations and updating Form 802 for these purposes. We will keep you apprised of any changes as they occur. If you have questions about whether these regulations apply to your specific situation or how to report this information, please contact the City Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960, the City Attorney at 213-978-7100, or the Fair Political Practices Commission at (866) 275-3772.